

Safeguard for free speech on campuses

By Sheila Gann, Political Staff

The Government will introduce an amendment to the Education Bill in the Lords next week that will guarantee freedom of speech at universities and other colleges of further education.

Accepted it is likely to lead to the police being asked to patrol campuses to stop any disruption at organized meetings.

The move comes after growing concern about the violent scenes at several universities when students and others have tried to silence speakers considered to be racist or fascist.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is known to feel strongly that invited speakers at places of learning must not be denied the right to speak. She was particularly impressed by a debate in the Lords in February on "campus censorship" and the politicization of education.

Sir Keith Joseph, one of his last moves before being replaced last week as Secretary of State for Education and Science, appealed to the National Union of Students not to disrupt meetings, branding the protesting students "the new barbarians".

Among the speakers who have been the targets of abuse are Mr David Waddington, the Home Office minister in charge of immigration, at Manchester University; Mr John Carlisle, Conservative MP for Luton North, at Bradford University; and Professor John Vincent, a columnist with The Sun, at Bristol University.

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The Government's amendment also follows a campaign by Baroness Cox, a Conservative peer, to take politics out of schools and colleges. Last week she succeeded in pushing through an amendment to the Education Bill to ban political indoctrination in primary schools.

But she withdrew an amendment, to prevent serious interference with the freedom of speech in colleges, after Lord Swinton, the Government spokesman, promised to bring in a Government amendment. He said that would "go wider than freedom of speech for visiting speakers and will relate to every aspect of higher education".

He added that he hoped the amendment, together with Sir Keith's appeal to the students, would secure freedom of speech in institutions of further education.

Baroness Cox described the penalties imposed on students at Bristol University who disrupted Professor Vincent's lectures as very mild and criticised two Oxford colleges that would not give a platform to a Conservative MP. Legislation, she said, would strengthen the hand of the university authorities.

A National Union of Students spokesman said yesterday that there were already clear disciplinary procedures for dealing with the breaking of regulations and overt disruptions of meetings.

"You have in some colleges a minority of political extremists who have no respect for the wishes of the majority on the union and the college authorities and ultimately have little respect for the law," the spokesman said.

"By tying the hands of the college authorities by external powers would make very little difference because the people will always seek to draw attention to themselves and to make martyrs of themselves in order to attract publicity."

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Kinnock breaks the rules abroad

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

If there was ever a convention that Opposition politicians travelling abroad should refrain from attacks on the Government at home, it has been relegated to the dustbin by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, during his tour of India.

At a meeting of intellectuals and international affairs experts, he took the opportunity yesterday to lambast Mrs Thatcher's "de-internationalization" of British policy.

Speaking at the Indian International Centre, he described what he saw as Mrs Thatcher's "backward-looking abandonment of the ideals of international organizations and a cynicism towards what international structures can achieve".

He cited as instances of this "systematic process" the British withdrawal from Unesco after the American withdrawal; the dismissal of the United Nations as a talking-shop; the abandonment, after 40 years, of the International Labour Organization conventions; and the obstruction of Commonwealth initiatives; the attempt to call for joint world reflation at the Commonwealth summit in Delhi; and the imposition of sanctions against South Africa at the Nassau summit.

Mr Kinnock said to call Mrs Thatcher a camp-follower was one of the more polite ways of describing her relationship with Mr Reagan. He said there had been no trade-off for Britain in following a defereential policy towards America. "We have suffered nothing but economic disadvantage."

Mrs Thatcher's policy was sentimental, based on the "impression made by Ronald Reagan in cowboy films in Mrs Thatcher's youth", Mr Kinnock said. His audience was pleased to hear him support comprehensive sanctions against South Africa, "economic, commercial and cultural", but they were disappointed if they expected him to take a harder line on Sikh extremists in Britain than the Thatcher Government.

Mr Kinnock said that to agree to a change in British extradition or deportation arrangements "would have to be heard something more persuasive than what appears to be the present arguments".

He promised to replace the Nationality and Immigration Acts of 1971 with non-racial and non-discriminatory legislation.

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Six of the others have been named as Mr Brian Wilkerson, Mr Steven Harrison, Mr Derrick Straw, Mr Callum Anderson, Mr Richard Woodcroft and Mrs Laurel Zumarnor.

Mrs Thatcher seemed dismayed by the fact that her suggestion had been dismissed out of hand by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister.

Mrs Thatcher arrived back to London last night.

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Miss Sarah Ferguson at Heathrow airport yesterday, ready to fly to the Caribbean for a holiday before her marriage to Prince Andrew in July. (Photograph: David Parker)

Seven Britons still held in Zimbabwe

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Two Britons were released yesterday but seven others were still being held for questioning by police in Zimbabwe in connection with last week's South African raids on Harare.

According to reliable sources in Harare, those being held are suspected of having rented cars and of providing accommodation and logistical support to the South Africans.

All the Britons are understood to be held in Bulawayo in Matabeland. British High Commission staff have been in touch with the Zimbabwe authorities about the arrests but so far none of those being held has been visited by British diplomats.

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Thatcher on best hope for Israel

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

A confederation between Jordan and the territories now occupied by Israel remains the best hope for settling the tangled Palestinian problem, Mrs Thatcher said here yesterday at the end of the first visit by a British Prime Minister to Israel.

At a news conference summing up her three days of wide-ranging talks with the Israeli leadership and a delegation of moderate Palestinians, she insisted that such a confederation "is the most likely one to achieve success and welcome among the states concerned and among the wider world."

"You try always when you are working on these matters to go for the solution which will achieve widest acceptance because there is not much point in working for anything that will raise other difficulties and other problems."

In her view Israel was prepared to negotiate such an arrangement. "All have recognized that it is not in their best interest to be an occupying power," she said.

But she frankly admitted that it had so far been impossible to find moderate Palestinian leaders who truly represented the people and would be capable of negotiating such a deal.

She left the door open for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to be involved in any discussions, but she made it abundantly clear that this could only happen if the organization renounced the use of terrorism everywhere.

One way of finding a moderate leadership she said, was to allow the Palestinians the right to elect their own mayors, but there were other "indirect ways" such as allowing the people to elect representatives from the West Bank to the Jordanian Parliament.

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Justice ministry menace, Bar told

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Maryleboac, warned yesterday that the idea of a Ministry of Justice was "constitutionally very dangerous".

"It is my conviction that a minister of justice based on the House of Commons would be a menace to the independence of the courts and the judiciary, perhaps even of the legal profession."

The idea, which was recently put forward in a policy paper from the SDP-Liberal Alliance, was incompatible with separate responsibilities as under the present system for judicial appointments and court administration on the one hand, and for prosecutions and penal treatment on the other, he said.

Lord Hailsham, who was giving the opening address to almost 300 barristers attending the Bar's first conference in London, also made a vigorous defence of the legal profession with its two-branch system.

Each branch had its own role and this was nothing to do with "restrictive practices or the suppression of competition", he said. It was vital this was understood by the public, the profession and all engaged in debate.

Lord Hailsham avoided reference to the delicate issue of legal aid fees on which he was recently taken to court by the Bar, and his presence at the conference, warmly welcomed by Mr Robert Alexander, QC, the Bar chairman, was a clear public healing of any rift that the legal proceedings may have caused.

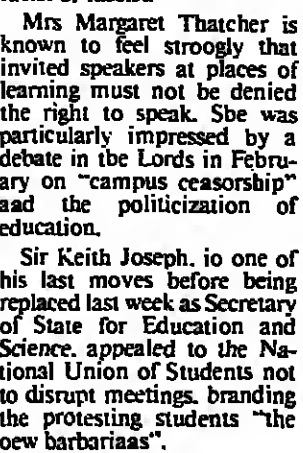
Lord Hailsham, Mr Alexander said, was a "statesman, scholar and a judge" who has a "great affection and concern for our profession."

But the day was not entirely free from controversy. In what some took to be a side swipe at Judge Pickles, the circuit judge who has spoken publicly in defiance of the rules, Lord Hailsham said that anyone who thought he was a dictator in the matter of judicial appointments - words used by the judge - was "a fool".

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Free speech is all I can afford on my grant...



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Poly unit to fight 9,500 students cut

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The Government's advisers on polytechnic funding are to ask for a meeting with Mr Kenneth Baker, the new Secretary of State for Education and Science, to prevent a proposed cut of 9,500 in student numbers next year.

The committee of the National Advisory Body is angry that Sir Keith Joseph, the former Education Secretary, managed to get Cabinet agreement in principle to extra cash for the universities in 1987-88, but appears to have secured nothing extra for the polys.

Polytechnic directors are particularly angry that the Government has not responded to their emphasis on the fact that it is cheaper to educate a student at a polytechnic than at a university.

Last month NAB officials sent out details of cuts to all polys, based on a budget shortfall of £23 million for 1987-88. They said there would have to be a cut of 7 per cent, or 9,500, in student numbers in order to save 3 per cent in the budget.

In saying this, NAB officials were working under instructions from their committee to cut student numbers to maintain standards. Until now the NAB has allowed more and more students to study for a public sector degree, without extra funding from the Government.

Consultations are under way on the details of these cuts, which involve the closure of whole departments, including engineering and fine art. A second round of consultation is due in September.

Mr John Bevan, NAB secretary, said: "It would be sensible for that second round of consultation to take account of any signal the Secretary of State is going to give us about extra money. To do that we need to have a signal by about the middle of June."

The National Advisory Body gives its advice on next year's polytechnic funding to Mr Baker at the end of the year.

UGC cuts, page 28

Reagan warning on future of Salt

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan has decided to scrap two ageing Poseidon submarines, but has warned Moscow that he will no longer abide by the limit of the Salt 2 treaty if the Russians continue to violate it.

A White House announcement yesterday said the United States could not continue unilaterally to support a flawed Salt structure that Soviet non-compliance had "so grievously undermined" and Moscow appeared unwilling to repair.

The submarines had to be retired because of the sea trials beginning today of USS Nevada, a Trident submarine with 24 multiple warhead missiles. This would have pushed the US over the Salt 2 limit of 1,200 launchers if the two Poseidons had remained.

The White House noted that the US would remain in technical observance" of the Treaty for some months. This would give Moscow more time to correct violations.

Mr Reagan proposed the building of a new arms limitation structure based on "significant equitable and verifiable" reductions in existing US and Soviet nuclear arsenals.

The President's carefully worded statement increases the pressure on the Russians while leaving the door open to continued US compliance.

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Chernobyl aid concert

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Top Soviet rock stars will appear together at a special concert being organized to raise funds for victims of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The unprecedented move is reminiscent of recent spectacular charitable events in the West.

The decision to stage the Moscow concert coincided with a flood of contributions to a special fund for victims which was opened last week, partly in response to a mass of letters offering cash sent in by readers of Pravda, the official Communist Party daily.

The concert, known in Russian simply as "Accouai No 904" after the account at the State Bank where contributions are to be sent, will be held at the northern Moscow Olympic Stadium on Friday.

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GP reforms

The General Medical Council may relax its rules on advertising to allow doctors to provide patients with the public with information booklets on the services they provide. Page 5

Flyer freed

French police released Robert Grant, the British engineer who allegedly took a light plane at a British airport without permission and flew it to an airfield near Paris.

Passport row

East Germany said that the passport requirement on the Berlin border had been introduced in compliance with Western requests that East Germany tighten its measures against terrorism.

BA go-ahead

British Airways is to go ahead with a sweepstake competition advertised in American newspapers offering 5,600 free seats to Britain after resolving a dispute with Florida.

Table with 3 columns: Home News, Overseas, and other categories with corresponding page numbers.

Lost Victorian art treasure revealed

By Michael McCarthy

A painting that lay rolled up in a cardboard tube for more than 50 years has been found to be the work of one of the most prized Victorian artists, with an estimated value of more than £100,000.

The watercolour, "Artists' Halt in the Desert" by Richard Dadd (1817-1886) was rediscovered when the BBC's Antiques Roadshow television programme visited Barnstaple in Devon two weeks ago. A local couple, Mr Bob Walker and his wife Pauline, brought it along to be valued.

The painting, an atmospheric recreation of a moonlit campfire on the shores of the Dead Sea, had belonged to Mr Walker's maternal grandfather, since the early years of this century and was kept in a cardboard tube in the family home in Choriton cum Hardy, Manchester.

"We used to take it out when visitors came, and show it to them and then put it back," Mr Walker said yesterday.

Mr Peter Nahum, a leading expert on Dadd who identified the painting, said yesterday that the years in the tube had contributed to its "wonderful" condition. "Dadd's colours were very strong and almost all his watercolours from this period are now terribly faded. Here we see the full strength of the artist's original colour and it's absolutely marvellous."

Chinese shipping takeover

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

The Chinese Government may gain control of the Furness Withy Group, one of the best-known names in British shipping, in tense negotiations taking place in Hong Kong.

Until recently Furness Withy was one of the top five British shipping groups with a fleet of more than 100 ships, including passenger liners such as the 20,000-ton Southern Cross, launched by the Queen in 1954, and the 25,000-ton Northern Star, launched by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1961.

But the group ran into financial troubles and in 1980 became part of Hong Kong's giant Tung group in a £112 million takeover. Now the Tung group is also in trouble with an estimated \$2,600 million shortfall that has led to a restructuring by London, Hong Kong and Japanese banks.

Under the proposals, Furness Withy will become part of a new container shipping group within the restructured Tung empire, retaining its British membership.

Acting through Mr Henry Fok, a wealthy shipping and gambling entrepreneur, the Chinese Government has offered to take a £100 million stake in the Tung group.

Advertisement for 'The only LOAN with this UNCONDITIONAL PRICE PROMISE!' featuring interest rates of 18.5% and 12.8%, and a coupon for a free personal payment guide.

Assembly in doubt after Unionist snub to minister

By Richard Ford

The leaders of the two Ulster Unionist parties last night rejected an invitation to meet Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for discussions on the assembly whose future is to be decided within 10 days.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, and the Rev Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionists, said in a joint statement that they could not enter talks with the Government until the Anglo-Irish agreement was suspended.

Priest denounces 'cruel' IRA killing

Three hundred mourners yesterday heard the Provisional IRA murder of an alleged informer described as "cruel, unjust and brutal" (Richard Ford writes).

Sittingbourne, Kent. He had been flown out of the province only hours after the Garda found 120 rifles and 18,000 rounds of ammunition in three arms dumps in counties Roscommon and Sligo in January.

Mulhearn threat to defy party ban

The Labour Party last night faced a new constitutional crisis in the Militant stronghold of Liverpool.

Mr Tony Mulhearn, a councillor expelled from the party after being officially branded a Militant Tendency member by the national executive last week, planned to attend the annual meeting of Garston constituency party last night.

The constituency has voted to reject any expulsions imposed by the executive, and it was understood that Mr Mulhearn would be allowed to attend the meeting.

Mr Hatton, who is to face a Labour Party hearing over his alleged Militant links, was beginning a five-day visit to the Irish Republic at the invitation of supporters of the publication *Irish Militant Monthly*, which also has links with the Militant Tendency.



A youngster from the National Association of Boys' Clubs takes a victory walk on water at Nottingham after 300 canoeists in 285 boats formed a raft formation on the Trent and floated for 95 seconds, breaking the old record of 30 seconds

Sport Aid 'squeeze' begins

Sport Aid organizers were yesterday endeavoring to maximize the money raised by Sunday's worldwide Race Against Time in aid of African famine relief. They are optimistic that the total will eventually far exceed the proceeds of Bob Geldof's original Band Aid scheme.

Mr Long, who organized global satellite television coverage of the event, was nursing blistered feet after taking part in the New York run. Mr Geldof had dropped from view and was taking a rest with friends, trying to throw off the tonsillitis which had threatened to prevent him leading 200,000 participants.

Firewoman hands in uniform

Miss Lynne Gunning, the London firewoman whose complaints against six male colleagues for sexual harassment led to them being disciplined, handed in her uniform and left the service yesterday (Patricia Clough writes).

Union to vote on Wapping

Prospects of an end to the 17-week-old dispute over the News International move to Wapping, east London, were uncertain today as the main print union involved began to ballot its members on the company's final offer.

Attempt to quell fears over hot rocks project

The Department of Energy moved quickly yesterday to quell anxiety about the fate of British research into the development of geothermal energy, or the use of heat from hot rocks under the ground for generating electricity.

But the next step is to drill deeper, using the boreholes to boil water into super-heated steam at 200C. The geologists believe that if they deepen existing 8,500ft boreholes to 18,000ft, the yield of steam can be used to provide electric power, as a renewable and benign energy alternative to nuclear reactors.

Three held over art theft

Three men were being questioned last night in the Irish Republic by police investigating last week's multi-million pound theft from the Beit art collection.

MP urges ban by journalists

A senior Tory backbencher yesterday urged journalists to boycott a union conference to which only black reporters have been invited.

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3 year term Apex Shares 3rd Issue	7.75	7.90	11.13

National & Provincial Building Society
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Guide to aid home purchasers

A manual intended to help protect the interests of new home buyers was launched yesterday by the National House-Building Council, an independent body aimed at promoting better housing standards (Christopher Warman writes).

MP urges ban by journalists

The conference, of Nalco, the local government union, is about how black workers are treated within and outside the trade union movement.

MP urges ban by journalists

Mr John Carlisle, secretary of the all-party Anglo-South Africa group of MPs, said: "This is the first instance of apartheid in Britain and it is disgraceful."

GEC says Nimrod problems 'solved'

By Rodney Cowton

Defence Correspondent GEC claimed yesterday to have made substantial progress towards solving its problems with the Nimrod Airborne Early Warning aircraft.

Mr James Prior, a former member of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet, and chairman of GEC, visited the establishment where the work is being carried out, and afterwards said that an aircraft was already flying with a new high-speed computer and improved aerials.

The project has so far cost about £900 million and is at least three years late. Under an agreement reached at the end of February, GEC was given six months in which to satisfy the Ministry of Defence that it could find solutions to the problems.

Meanwhile the ministry is considering bids from three American companies that are offering systems to replace the Nimrod.

The American aircraft, a Boeing, Grumman and Lockheed, are undergoing technical assessment, and they are to submit firm prices by the middle of next month.

Mr Prior said that GEC would be submitting an approximate price estimate at the same time.

He refused to discuss GEC's price, but it is thought likely to be between £250 million and £400 million, which would be lower than the American aircraft.

Mr Prior also disclosed for the first time that last July the Ministry of Defence controller responsible for research had carried out a technical audit of GEC's programme. That audit had supported the technical validity of the programme to provide an initial operating capability.

Under the agreement reached in February the cost of GEC's £50 million development programme will be shared by the company and the ministry with the company getting its money back only if the ministry decides to go ahead with the project after this phase.

Mr John Lang, committee member of the Sogat clerical branch at *The Times*, was critical of Miss Brenda Dean, the union's general secretary. "The whole deal and the way it has been achieved is absolutely disgraceful. I think Brenda Dean should resign and that is the opinion of a lot of people."

"We want to campaign vigorously for a 'no' vote, to carry on with the dispute, but the national leadership don't want that at any price."

Union sources believe that acceptance of the deal by Sogat could isolate the union from the NGA, which was thought likely to reject the offer.

Independent commentators whose views were sought yesterday included Mr Charles Wintour, former editor of *The London Standard*. "I think if they've got any sense they'll accept it. It's not an ungenerous offer in terms of money... what alternative have they got? They're not going to get their jobs back at Wapping, which was their constant demand."

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Visitors told he ETA bot

Bail terms shock magistrates

Closure plans come in profit

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Visitors to Spain are told 'be vigilant' over ETA bombing threats

By Michael Horsnell

British holidaymakers were urged yesterday to be vigilant but calm about threats by Basque ETA separatists to mount a beach bombing campaign in Spain this summer.

Bomb warnings, given to newspapers in the Spanish and French Basque region on Monday, are aimed at wrecking Spain's tourist industry and come after last year's bombing campaign when 19 small devices were exploded by the separatists.

The bombs had little effect on tourism, but the campaign tied up police reserves along the Mediterranean coast of Spain.

About 8,000 police have been detailed to begin a security operation in the area this year against terrorists and muggers.

A Foreign Office spokesman said no advice was being given to British tourists not to go to Spain. Tour operators are expecting to book up to a quarter of a million package holidays during the coming three months.

The spokesman said: "We are in regular touch with the Spanish authorities in whom we have full confidence. We are not advising British tourists against visiting Spain. The Foreign Office will keep in close touch with representatives of the British tourist industry."

Holiday operators advised tourists not to panic on the grounds that last year's bombing was a form of political pressure on the Spanish government and not anti-British.

A Horizon holidays spokesman said: "Our advice to people going to Spain is to remain vigilant and report anything unusual. It is the advice we put out to our representatives some weeks ago following the Libyan situation and it still holds."

He added that Spain is the most popular choice with holidaymakers this year and that the increased numbers over last year reflects their composure in the face of terrorism, muggings and high prices.

Mr Neil Thompson, Pickford's marketing director, said there was no need for holidaymakers to panic.

● America's reluctant tourists are to be offered free air travel and car rental as an incentive to visit Ireland in an attempt by Irish tourist chiefs to reverse an expected 25 per cent drop in United States trade this summer, because of terrorism fears.

Passengers who book flights to Ireland in the US before July 15 for journeys up to next November will get the chance to buy two extra tickets for the price of one. They will also be entitled to a free car for a week for every two adults travelling together.

The offer is being made by the Irish national airline, Aer Lingus, in conjunction with the Avis car hire company. As an additional spur to holiday in Ireland, United States tourists will be able to travel on to any point in Europe served by Aer Lingus for \$99 (£66).

Gales mar Aer Lingus birthday

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister of Ireland, flew into Britain yesterday amid tight security to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Aer Lingus, the country's national airline.

But the historic occasion was marred when the centrepiece of the show, a 1934 de Havilland Dragon, failed to arrive at Bristol airport because it was grounded by gale force winds.

The Dragon is a sister craft of the later or "Eagle", the airline's first commercial aircraft which made its inaugural flight to Bristol in 1936.

Dr FitzGerald had arrived earlier on board a Boeing 737 with a number of guests including three former prime ministers, Mr Liam Cosgrave, Mr Jack Lynch and Mr Charles Haughey, along with the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Mr Jim Tunney.

Also in the party were two of the original five passengers who made the historic flight 50 years ago: Dr Timothy O'Driscoll, who became director of the Irish Tourist Board, and Mrs Sheelagh Martin.

Dr FitzGerald, who used to work for Aer Lingus, said: "Obviously it is a shame that the old plane could not fly in. As a child two things interested me, politics and air transport. Aer Lingus has come along a great deal since the early days. My flight over in the Boeing was very smooth."

He added that the airline had helped to forge links between the two countries.



Michael Crawford (top) will be joining Sarah Brightman (middle) in Andrew Lloyd-Webber's new musical The Phantom of the Opera, due to open in the West End on October 9, it was announced in London yesterday.

Sale of records suffers in wake of compact discs

By Teresa Poole

Demand for single and long-playing records has fallen sharply this year, with sales of records high in the pop charts suffering the most.

Deliveries of singles to retailers fell by 17 per cent to 15.2 million in the first three months of this year, compared with the same period last year. Deliveries of LPs fell by 8 per cent to 9 million, according to the British Phonographic Industry, the record company trade organization.

It said the poor performance of singles' sales was partly due to the success of the Band Aid Christmas record, which sold more than one million copies early last year.

But according to the Gallup organization, which compiles the music industry's official charts, there has still been an underlying drop with up to 25 per cent fewer sales needed this year to send a record to the top of the charts.

Figures for the past four weeks have continued to show a 15 to 20 per cent fall in total singles sales. Three weeks ago, "Rock Me Amadeus", by Falco, the German singer, sold fewer than 50,000 copies in the week it reached the number one position. "It got there by default," a Gallup spokesman said.

The BPI said that, by contrast, sales of cassettes and compact discs have continued to rise. Cassettes are increas-

ingly being purchased in preference to LPs, with cassette deliveries showing a 13.6 per cent improvement to 10.6 million units in the first quarter.

The burgeoning compact disc market showed the strongest growth with shipments more than doubling to 1.2 million discs. Annual sales by British manufacturers to the trade are forecast to reach 6 million units.

However, the British firms say that they are still failing to keep up with demand and retailers are taking advantage of imports from other EEC countries.

The overall value of recorded music deliveries in the first quarter increased by 3.4 per cent to almost £72 million.

UK TRADE DELIVERIES

	Jan-Mar 1986	% change on Jan-Mar 1985
Singles	15.2m	-17.0
units value	£17.6m	-12.3
LPs	9.1m	-8.0
units value	£23.8	-6.0
Cassettes	10.6m	+13.6
units value	£22.8	+13.1
Compact discs	1.2m	+101.8
units value	£7.7m	+130.5
Total	£71.9m	+3.4

Bail terms shock magistrate

A London magistrate was shocked to hear yesterday that a man accused of conspiracy to cause explosions had been granted unconditional bail.

"No conditions that he must not kill anybody, or anything like that?" Mr Eric Crowther, stipendiary magistrate at Horseferry Road Court, remarked after Philip Kersey failed to appear.

Mr Kersey, aged 23, of Canterbury Place, Newington estate, Walworth, had been charged after a car blast in Clapham High Street in November, and was on police bail before his first court appearance in April.

Mr Crowther issued a warrant for his arrest and said that he would be investigating the circumstances in which he was initially granted bail.

Mr Kersey, a mortuary technician at Guy's Hospital, is charged with plotting with Mark Tomber, aged 28, from Dagenham, to cause explosions likely to endanger life. He is also charged with having 10 improvised band grenades, seven detonators and two petrol bombs about November 1 last year.

Holiday foils farmer's attempt to evict hippies

Mr Les Attwell, a farmer whose land has been invaded by hundreds of hippies, suffered a setback in his attempt to move on the "peace convoy" when he failed to obtain a court hearing yesterday because of the Bank holiday.

Mr Attwell, aged 57, who claims he faces financial ruin because of damage to crops and property, will try to seek a High Court injunction today.

Mr Attwell, suffers from angina and collapsed when the convoy of 100 vehicles moved on to his 101-acre farm at Lytch's Cary, near Yeovil, Somerset, last Friday.

The hippies, who are massing for a banned festival at Stonehenge, had been evicted from a farm near by on a High Court order.

Mr Attwell says the hippies' action will ruin him as he will get no maize crop from the 13-acre field and will have to sell his stock at a low price.

In an increasingly volatile situation, local residents voiced their fears of vigilante groups taking the law into their own hands. They argue that the police have proved unable to stop the hippies because trespass is a civil offence.

Princess visits drug centre

The Princess of Wales chatted with drug addicts and alcoholics yesterday about their ruined lives and the treatment they were receiving.

The Princess had asked to visit Broadway Lodge, the pioneering rehabilitation centre at Weston-super-Mare, Avon, and spent nearly two hours talking with 40 patients.

She learnt of marriages and homes broken through drink and of the dependency and sometimes death that follows drug-taking.

The Princess earned the admiration of the centre's counsellors - some of them former addicts - for her knowledge of the drug problem.

She surprised everyone by having read *Kid Heroica*, a book by Liz Cutland, a counsellor whom she met.

Mr Edward Lindsey, head of treatment, said: "The Princess is very well informed about the subject. There is no doubt at all she has taken a personal and genuine interest."

The Princess talked to two alcoholics, Mrs Jennifer Kerr, aged 38, married with two children, and Mr Terry Warburton, aged 37, married with two children but now separated.

Mr Warburton said of the Princess: "She was very knowledgeable. She wanted to know about the isolation that alcoholism can cause. I told her it was a terrible feeling not being able to communicate with normal people."

Broadway Lodge is a private treatment centre set up 12 years ago by a group of professional people. It is a non-profit-making charitable foundation.

Mr Lindsey explained: "We literally treat everyone from dukes to dustmen. We reject the suggestion that we only treat the rich. Last year about 70 per cent of our beds were assisted, mainly with money from the DHSS."

He said the centre's philosophy followed that of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

Peace note offered for taxes

A peace campaigner, Mr Edward Stanton, aged 48, of Grange-over-sands, Cumbria, is to offer specially designed "peace notes" to the Inland Revenue in Barrow-in-Furness today to cover a £250 tax bill.

"These constitute IOUs which will be replaced with real money when the Inland Revenue agree that the taxes of conscientious objectors will not be used for making weapons for mass destruction, which is illegal," Mr Stanton, a Quaker, said yesterday.

The £250 represents the balance of £520 taxes and costs which he owed.

The judge told him he had no option but to pay, regardless of how the money was used.

However, in an open letter to be handed to the Inland Revenue today, Mr Stanton says that it would be a crime for him willingly to pay his taxes to be used for "this most horrific form of terrorism".

Drive for cooking butter

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

A £540,000 campaign to explain the uses of concentrated butter for cooking is to be launched next month by the Butter Information Council.

Although the product has been in the shops since the start of the year, as part of the EEC effort to rid itself of surplus butter stocks, most consumers are still unaware of what it is or how to use it.

Television, newspaper and magazine advertising will emphasize its versatility as a cooking fat, but will also point out that it is not intended for spreading on bread.

Mr Chris Bird, council chief executive, said he was confident that the product would be readily accepted once its benefits were explained.

It is selling for about 31-32p for a 250 gram pack, which is more expensive than lard or cheap margarine, but it has a better flavour.

Closure plan at mental home in police inquiry

Staff at a home for the mentally handicapped where police are investigating allegations of beatings and brutality were yesterday preparing to close it.

Social workers were making urgent plans to move the last five patients living at Oriol Lodge, Great Cornard, near Sudbury, Suffolk.

The home is at the centre of a police inquiry after claims that some of its mentally handicapped patients had been beaten, drugged and locked in their rooms.

Last week the local social services panel decided to cancel the home's registration certificate, declaring it unfit for residential care.

The panel's reasons included criticisms of Oriol Lodge's poor living conditions, inadequate heating, hot water and kitchen facilities, as well as financial irregularities, lack of qualified staff and disputes between staff and the owner, Mrs Caroline Marsh, who is founder and executive director of the charity Share (Selected Homes and Residen-

£10,000 a week to rent home

An historic home, complete with butler, cook, 1,900 acres of parkland and a heliport, is in need of a tenant with £10,000 a week to spare.

Braxted Park, the 250-year-old Georgian mansion, near Witham, Essex, is the home of Mr Michael Clark, a millionaire and deputy chairman of the Plessey Electronics group. It is being let for eight weeks during the summer.

Included is a heated indoor swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course, clay pigeon shooting, sauna, tennis court, trout fishery near by and a croquet lawn.

There is a domestic secretary, a resident caretaker, gamekeepers and gardeners.

Hampton and Sons, the London-based agents, have been inundated with clients eager to sample luxury living at an historic home, which has seven double bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a ballroom and five reception rooms.

Vicar goes in dispute over clock

By Patricia Clough

The vicar of the picturesque village of Montacute, Somerset (population 600), has resigned after a dispute over the ancient church clock.

The Rev Archibald Dean, aged 72, resigned in despair after the debate over whether to restore the clock or give it a new winding mechanism "turned personal".

The clock, built 200 years ago by the village blacksmith, has been stopped for a year, since Mr Clarence Rogers, who had climbed the church tower steps and a 15ft ladder every day for 60 years to wind it by hand, turned 85 and declared he had had enough.

"A certain element wanted to restore it, with the addition of electric winding, and a certain element wanted something completely modern. I suggested we should see if there was someone who could restore it and in fact there is," Mr Dean said.

Mr Dean found himself caught in the middle of the argument and had to chair some very unpleasant meetings.

In a letter in this month's parish news, Mr Dean said: "Frankly, I do not know what Montacute wants, but it seems I am not the right person to supply it."

Mr Dean, who will continue in his other role as rector of Odcombe, Luffton and Brympton, preached his last sermon on Sunday.

Mrs Amy Yates, secretary of the parish council, said his departure was particularly sad as they had since agreed on a study of the clock's condition.

"He was a very wonderful man and it is very sad that this has happened."

Poor response to abstracts

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

While pioneering abstracts by Mondrian can fetch more than £1 million, furniture designed by his contemporary and friend, Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, still has a small and uncertain following.

"Rietveld furniture is a minefield," Mr Dan Kleio of Christie's said yesterday after selling for a total of £126,287 the contents of a room designed by Rietveld for the Birza family of Amsterdam, in the 1920s and 1930s.

Mondrian influenced Rietveld's design and was in turn influenced by his stark outlines and this furniture should have been considered as a pioneering example of the application of abstract design to the decorative arts. It dated from the right period and the commission is fully documented.

In the event it was treated with caution and the condition of the pieces was fussed over.

The unique "Birza chair" was the highlight of the sale, stamped out of a single sheet of fibre. It was made by G.A. van der Groenekan, who found the design so difficult to realize that he refused to make another.

The Stedelijk Museum of Amsterdam spent 127,600 florins (estimate 20,000-25,000 fls) or £33,578 to acquire it but only after expressing worries that the piece had been remodelled in the 1950s. Groenekan stated that it had been remodelled under Rietveld's supervision about 1930 and the Birza family confirmed this, but the doubts remained.

The other high-flyer was an ebonyized plywood easy chair which Rietveld designed in 1924 and which sold for 110,200 florins (estimate 20,000-25,000 fls) or £29,000 to Mr Barry Friedman, a New York dealer.

According to Groenekan only five chairs of this design were made.

Christie's said it had been deluged with offers of other Rietveld furniture for sale as a result of the Birza room auction. Most of the furniture is poorly made - its interest lies in the design - and only fully documented pieces made in the pioneering 1920s command Birza-type prices.

At Sotheby's yesterday prices for early English pottery were high. A Staffordshire slipware dish of about 1710 with a design of a cockerel between a thistle and a rose, a reference to the Act of Union between England and Scotland of 1707, sold for £17,600 (estimate £7,000-£9,000).

A saltglaze cylindrical tankard of about 1745, crisply moulded with fabulous animals, birds, fish and a riotous tavern scene, secured £6,030 (estimate £1,500-£2,500).

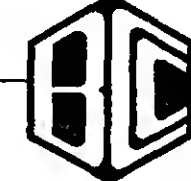
In contrast, fine early English porcelain was selling at or below estimate and seems to be getting left behind in price.

The sale included a 1984 Toby jug made for the "Jim'll Fix It" television show to please Toby Gillette - the jug is his own portrait. He had sent his jug for sale and it made £15,900. Royal Doulton only made three jugs of this design, one for Gillette, one for Jimmy Savile, who hosts the show, and one for itself.

Boy of eight aids capture

A boy aged 8 has been praised by the police after helping to capture two escapees from a youth custody centre near Warrington, Cheshire.

Francis Worthy, of Rodgers Close, Frodsham, Cheshire, rang the police emergency number when he saw the two youths, aged 16 and 19, sleeping in an old garage on his way to school.



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Financial Highlights 1985

Capital Fund	US \$	1,190 million	
(including reserves)	US \$	1,510 million	
(since increased to)			
Deposits	US \$	12,700 million	
from customers			
Loans and Advances	US \$	6,800 million	
net of provisions			
Total Assets	US \$	16,500 million	
excluding intangibles			
Result before Tax	US \$	158 million	
after subtraction			
Capital/Assets Ratio		7.18%	
		(since increased to 9%)	
Branches and Offices in		71 Countries	
Principal Subsidiaries			
Bank of Credit & Commerce International S.A., Luxembourg			
Bank of Credit & Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd., Grand Cayman			
Subsidiaries, Affiliates and their branches/offices in the following countries			
Argentina	Ghana	Macau	Sierra Leone
Australia	Gibraltar	Malaysia	Spain
Bahamas	Grand Cayman	Maldives	Sri Lanka
Bahrain	Hong Kong	Mauritius	Sudan
Bangladesh	India	Monaco	Swaziland
Barbados	Indonesia	Morocco	Switzerland
Botswana	Isle of Man	Netherlands	Thailand
Brazil	Italy	Netherlands Antilles	Togo
Cameroon	Ivory Coast	Niger	Turkey
Canada	Jamaica	Nigeria	UAE
China	Japan	Oman	United Kingdom
Colombia	Jordan	Pakistan	Uruguay
Cyprus	Kenya	Panama	USA
Djibouti	Korea (South)	Paraguay	Venezuela
Egypt	Kuwait	Philippines	Yemen (North)
France	Lebanon	Portugal	Zambia
Gabon	Liberia	Senegal	Zimbabwe
Germany (West)	Luxembourg	Seychelles	

Doctors may be allowed to publicize services under proposed reforms

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The medical profession's disciplinary body, the General Medical Council (GMC), is proposing to relax its strict rules on advertising to allow information booklets to be freely available to patients on the services that their doctors provide.

The proposed rule changes, which will be circulated for widespread consultation before a final decision in November, will "legitimise" the information booklets at present produced for patients by doctors in many practices.

The change would, however, make the booklets freely available not only to existing patients but also to prospective patients through local libraries, post offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux and other "centres of public information".

That part of the proposal, however, looks set to be opposed by the British Medical Association which favours the production of information booklets and leaflets, but says that they should be available only to existing patients and to prospective patients who apply for them personally at the doctor's surgery.

In addition the GMC is proposing that family practitioner committees and community health councils should be free to publish lists of local doctors, giving not just their names as at present, but also their specialist qualifications and the services they provide.

The GMC's proposed guidelines set out broad principles rather than specifying precisely what information could be provided.

But Dr Donald Irvine, chairman of the council's six-member committee that drew up the guidance, said yesterday it could include details of surgery times; whether a deputising service is used for out-of-hours cover; whether special clinics are run for family planning, ante- and post-natal care; or for diabetics and hypertensives; and whether health visitors and practice nurses work at the surgery.

Advertising in local papers or on radio or television would still be ruled out, with the new guidance saying that the information must be confined to "factual information of a non-promotional nature". It must not be intended to "gain an advantage over local colleagues", and must not make claims about the quality of service or the doctor's personal qualities or level of performance.

The changes are the result of pressure from the Royal College of General Practitioners and the British Medical Association for patients to be given more information about the services that doctors provide so as to make it easier to choose a family doctor.

There has also been strong pressure from the Government which at one stage was considering proposing that family doctors should be allowed to openly advertise their services.

The Government's discussion document on doctors' services, published last month, stopped short of a firm proposal on advertising, but said that "local media could be used to disseminate factual information about practices".

The GMC's proposal that the information booklets should be available at libraries and Citizens Advice Bureaux as well as at doctors' surgeries is likely, however, to be opposed by the BMA.

Dr Michael Wilson, chairman of the BMA's family doctors committee, said yesterday: "The idea that they should be available at such places makes this very much more a marketing and advertising exercise."



The Lloyd's underwriting room yesterday on the first day of business at the £163 million headquarters in Lime Street, London (Photograph: John Manning).

Weather and dear sugar hit bee farms

Britain's commercial beekeepers are facing serious financial difficulties after months of cold, wet weather and artificially high EEC sugar prices (John Young writes).

In their normal state bees depend on pollen and nectar, and in a cold wet summer, when the ordinary pollination cycle is interrupted, they are less productive. When that is followed by a bad winter, as has happened in the past year, many older bees fail to survive.

When nectar is scarce commercial beekeepers make a substitute feed of syrup made from sugar mixed with water.

But within the EEC beekeepers are obliged to pay the protected price of £400 a tonne, while important honey producers such as Israel are able to obtain it at the world market price of about £150 a tonne.

Mr Desmond Winslow, secretary of the Bee Farmers Association, said yesterday that beekeepers were paying far more than usual for supplementary supplies.

An additional irony was that EEC market support for sugar beet growers was costing taxpayers about £1 million a day.

Mr John Davies, who keeps about 300 hives near Shaftesbury in Dorset, said it was costing him £2,000, even in a good year, to feed his bees adequately.

Mothers could lose on family credits

Proposals to pay the new family credit for the low-paid through wage packets rather than a Department of Health and Social Services giro could cost some mothers about £16 a week, according to figures published yesterday by the Family Policy Studies Centre (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Family credit is to replace Family Income Supplement (FIS) for the low-paid when the Government introduces social security changes in 1988. At present FIS is paid by a DHSS giro, often to the mother rather than the father.

Under the family credit scheme, benefits will be paid into wage packets.

Ministers have agreed to review the proposal after Conservative backbench pressure. It is argued that it is likely to transfer money away from mothers, who usually have responsibility for children.

The centre said that, combined with the end of free school meals for children on FIS, a mother of two children aged under 11 and on an income of £80 a week would be about £16 a week worse off.

While in theory husbands would hand over the money from their pay packets, "often women do not know what their husbands earn and neither will they know how much credit is included for their children," the centre said.

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Science report

Ex-drivers depressed after stroke recovery

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Most people who have been motorists before suffering a stroke do not return to the wheel after recovering from their illness, and many suffer from depression and reduced social activity as a result, a survey has found.

More than half of the patients - 58 per cent - who were able to drive before their stroke were not driving a year later, the survey involving 144 cases showed. The average age of the patients was just under 65 years, and 90 per cent were men.

The research, carried out by the department of neurology at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, included assessments of arm function, walking, functional ability, and intelligence quotient, and showed former drivers to be "significantly more disabled" than drivers.

Within the terms of the law, many people who have had a stroke are likely to have a "relevant disability" for more than three months, and should inform the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre (DVLC) at Swansea. Few of the former drivers in the Bristol survey had done so, although none disputed his or her obvious inability to drive.

Three-quarters of the patients who had given up driving told the researchers that they could not, or were not allowed, to drive because of physical or mental disability, and the others said they did not wish to resume motor-ing, or could not afford to do so.

Stopping driving was associated with a loss of social activities and more frequent depression among former drivers when compared with drivers.

Thirty-nine per cent of the group who had given up were "probably" or "certainly" depressed, in their own assessment. Only 7 per cent of those still driving came to the same conclusions.

"Loss of social activities appears to be associated with depression. The inability to drive after a stroke could well exacerbate this loss, and thus contribute to depression," the researchers have reported.

Source: *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* Vol 79 No 4 Pages 200-203

Woman given heart-lungs transplant

A woman was given a heart and lungs transplant at Papworth Hospital near Cambridge yesterday.

Mrs Linda Bower, aged 47, of The Green, Evenley, Northamptonshire, is the twelfth person to have undergone the double transplant.

She was seriously ill when she was admitted to Papworth early yesterday. Her four-and-a-half hour operation started at 2.30 a.m. Later she was said to be in a satisfactory condition.

Video is used in choir girl murder hunt

Police officers throughout Britain will this week be shown a video film concerning the murder of Miss Sarah Harper, a Salvation Army choir girl whose body was found in the river Trent, near Nottingham.

Detectives hunting the killer said that the information in the film could lead to a vital breakthrough.

It is believed to be the first time a video film has been distributed in this way during a murder inquiry.

Pilgrims on first flight from 'papal airport'

The Irish Republic's controversial "papal airport" in remote Co Mayo began operating officially yesterday, in spite of the Dublin government's refusal to grant it a long-term licence, EEC reluctance to provide extra funds and howling gale-force winds.

More than 100 Roman Catholic pilgrims took off from Connacht Regional Airport in an Aer Lingus Boeing 737 named after Ireland's most recently created saint, Oliver Plunkett, a seventeenth-century martyr, and became the first passengers to use the multi-million-pound airport under the terms of a full licence.

The Lourdes-bound pilgrims' departure came three days before the air centre's ceremonial opening by Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish opposition leader and former prime minister.

They were seen off by Monsignor James Horan, Ireland's best-known parish priest, the man in charge of the Marian Shrine in the village of Knock, the main reason for the construction of the airport.

A three-month licence has been granted by Mr Jim Mitchell, Communications Minister, who is seen as a leading critic of the project after he described the site as "a foggy, boggy hillside".

Mr Mitchell, who will not attend Friday's opening, sent his congratulations and best wishes to the airport company, together with a warning that a full licence could not be given before certain technical installations were completed.

He repeated a promise to do anything possible to support the airport, apart from handing over more state funds.

It is the Irish government's lack of enthusiasm for the airport, together with its withdrawal of funding three years ago, that has stopped the EEC coming up with more money.

Dr Pierre Mathijssen, the EEC Commissioner for Regional Services, visited Knock this week and told Mgr Horan that the EEC could not provide cash without the support of the Irish government.

So far the airport project has cost £10 million.

Actor banned

Nigel Pivaro, aged 26, a Coronation Street actor, who overturned his car after drinking with friends, was banned from driving for a year and fined £275 by Manchester city magistrates yesterday.

Hoaxer fined

Derek Whyte, aged 24, of Dundee, was fined £50 by Uxbridge magistrates in west London yesterday for a hoax bomb alert at the South African Airways desk at Heathrow Airport on May 24.



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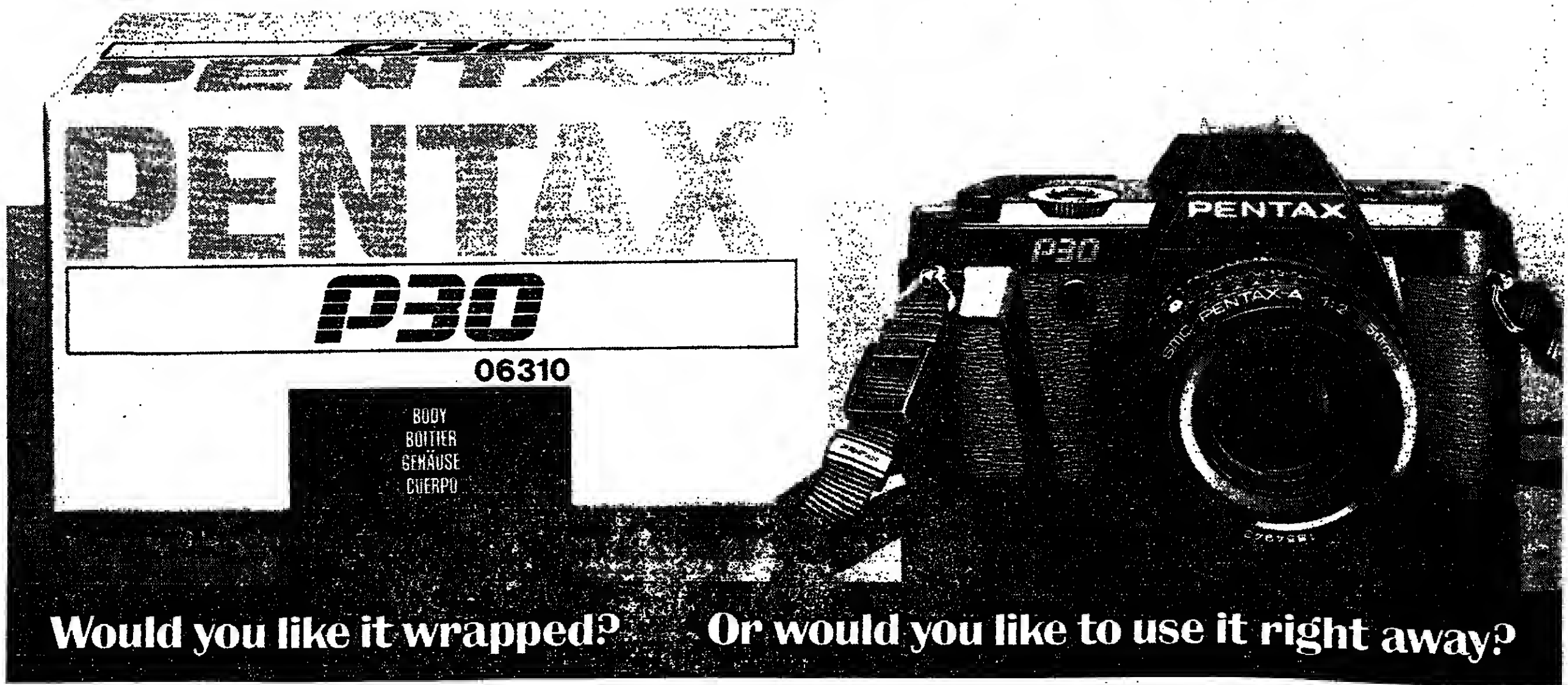
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THE BAR CONFERENCE Two-branches defended • Jury system praised • Insurance concern

Hostility between law professions 'certain recipe for disaster'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, warned the legal profession yesterday that mutual hostility between the Bar and solicitors or between either branch was a "certain recipe for mutual destruction."

In a vigorous defence of a two-branch legal profession, he said that each branch had its part to play. "This has nothing to do with restrictive practices or the suppression of competition."

A demist does not pull out a tooth single-handed, he said. Similarly, being an advocate was a "two-handed job" to court, even though we do not always choose a pretty assistant to see the client or the judge.

Lord Hailsham said that specialization of function was "absolutely essential in modern law" and the equivalent of the division of labour in classical economics.

The Lord Chancellor, who was giving the opening address at the Bar's first conference in London, said the objects of such specialization were service to the client, assisting the court, the integrity of the profession and the interests of the public.

He said it was extraordinary that there should be people who advocated the idea that barristers and solicitors should no longer be separate professions, mutually dependent, but providing together "a service to the public unparalleled elsewhere, in its efficiency, its independence and its incorruptibility."

As well as barristers and

solicitors, the English legal profession had three other specialist branches: there was the professional judicial bench, teachers of law, and salaried lawyers.

Each branch had a "separate justification, each a separate economic base and," he added, "I feel an equal duty to each one."

He called for the closest co-operation between the various branches and between them and the Lord Chancellor; mutual hostility was a "sure prescription for disaster."

But on the contentious issue of legal aid fees, now being negotiated between his officials and the legal profession in the wake of the Bar's legal action against him, Lord Hailsham said it was "clearly impossible to say anything."

He also launched a strong attack on the idea of a ministry of justice which he said was "constitutionally very dangerous."

The independence of the courts and the judiciary was "still at the very root of our liberties."

"It is my conviction that a minister of justice based in the House of Commons would be a menace to the independence of the court and the judiciary, perhaps even of the legal profession."

In his view, it was also incompatible with court administration or judicial impartiality that one minister should have responsibility both for judicial appointments and running the courts, and also with prosecutions and penal treatment on the other.

The benefit of having an Attorney General responsible for the prosecution service, a Home Secretary for criminal law and penal treatment with a Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords fixed on his seat on the Woolsack could not be over estimated. That would be imperilled by the proposal for a new ministry.

The Lord Chancellor went on to attack recent proposals supported by some Bar leaders that responsibility for judicial appointments be removed from his department and placed with an advisory committee.

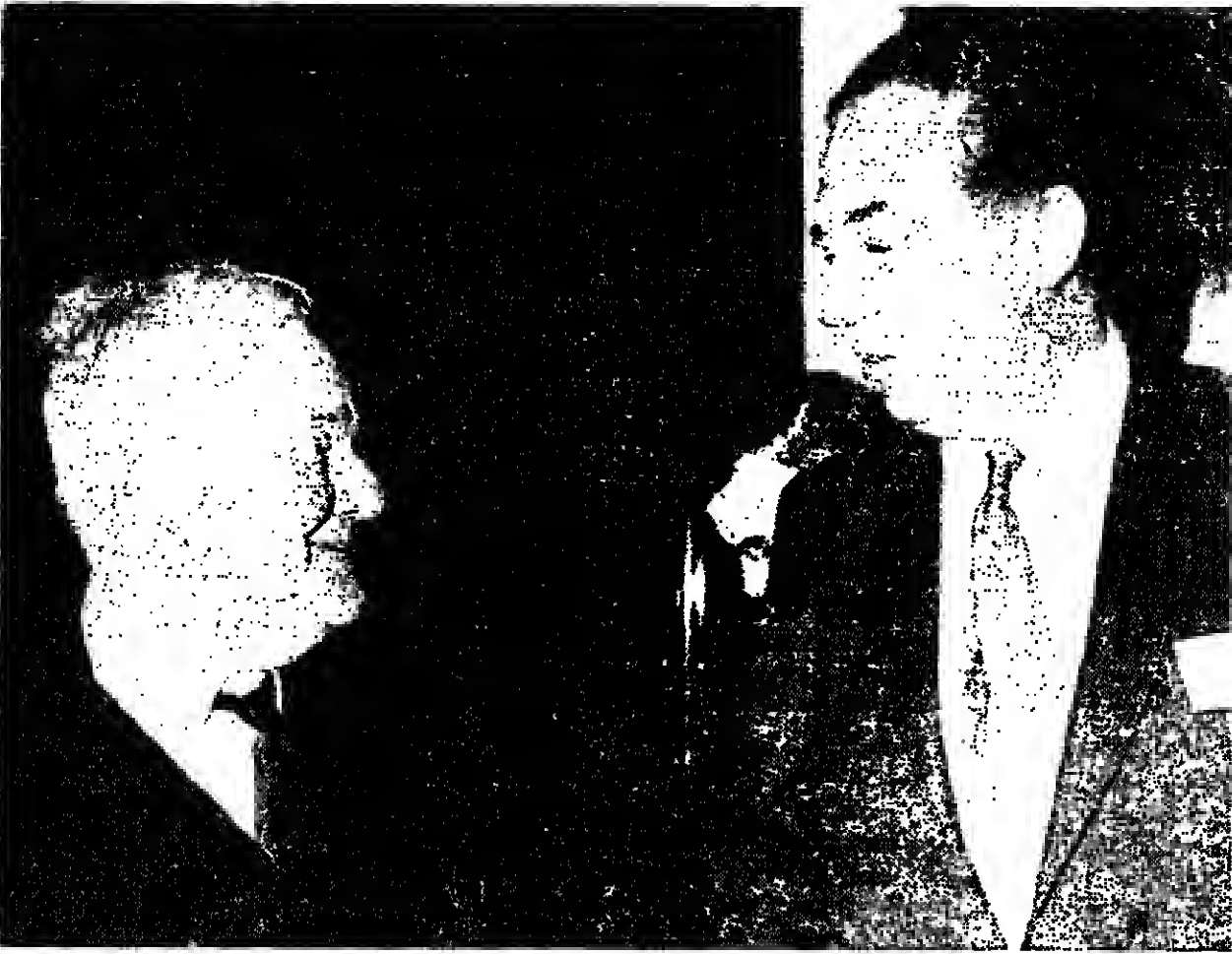
"Under our constitution parliamentary accountability implies a responsible minister and not a quango," he said.

"In practice, the Lord Chancellor is always advised before he acts; anyone who thinks he acts as a dictator is a fool," he added.

Later in an interview on BBC Radio 4, Lord Hailsham was asked about Judge James Pickles, the circuit judge who has recently published another newspaper article in defiance of rules on judges taking part in public debate.

Asked whether such pronouncements could damage the independence of the judiciary, Lord Hailsham replied: "We shall just have to wait and see. It's always the outcasses which cause the bother, you know."

Asked directly if he was calling Judge Pickles a nutcase, Lord Hailsham replied with a chuckle: "Far from it. Why should that thought cross your mind for an instance?"



Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, (left) with Mr Robert Alexander, QC, the chairman of the Bar Council, at the conference.

Bill for investment controls supported

Delegates were asked to support a Bill designed to tighten investment regulations.

Mr Richard Sykes, QC, chairman of a legal workshop on company law, hailed the Financial Services Bill now going through Parliament as a radical change in an area where new laws were badly needed.

"The present system is a muddled and outdated amalgam," Mr Sykes said.

"The Bill is a bold experiment designed to produce flexibility of self-regulation without the drawbacks of ineffectiveness."

He said old regulations led to a regular succession of public scandals.

The effect of the new legislation will become clearer in its final form. But it appears that the Securities and Investment Board of the Department of Trade and Industry will be designated to oversee the authorization procedure and the activities of those who are authorized.

Mr Sykes said a number of loopholes would be closed by the new law, which tackles a number of detailed areas.

He called for a body of neutral legal figures, possibly stipendiary magistrates, akin to the French system of examining magistrates.

All serious crimes would be reported to them, they would interview suspects and witnesses and direct police in their inquiries.

They would also make recommendations, and not the police, to the crown prosecutors.

This would achieve two vital reforms at one stroke: prevent the conviction of the innocent as a result of police malpractice and, where juries tend to disbelieve police evidence, prevent the acquittal of the guilty.

As for the acquittal of the guilty as a result of "the skills and tactics of counsel", there could be no remedy for that until trial procedures as well as investigative ones are conducted on inquisitorial lines, he said.

Among the advantages of the French system were that it avoided the "pseudo-dramatic atmosphere" of the adversary system, saved time in that lawyers did not have to go over the same ground; and did not grind to a halt on frequent occasions while the judge decided what was admissible as evidence.

As its object was to find the truth, almost all evidence was admissible.

Police role in case inquiries attacked

The role of the police within the English adversarial system of justice has been responsible for large numbers of miscarriages of justice and for guilty men going free, Mr Ludovic Kennedy, the author and broadcaster, claimed yesterday.

Calling for a radical overhaul of the system to bring it more into line with that in France, he said the common factor in large numbers of miscarriages of justice was the behaviour of plain clothes investigating officers.

They indulged "in all sorts of malpractices to bring about a guilty verdict... and in what Lord Devlin has called 'pressing too hard against those they believe to be guilty.'"

"So widespread has the habit become and so great now is public awareness of it, that I understand juries in some courts are so distrustful of the police that they tend to bring in acquittals where the burden of proof rests mainly on police evidence," he said.

The police were expected to perform two incompatible jobs: preventing crime taking place and detecting the offenders, and conducting forensic inquiries which required quite different skills of analysis and deduction.

"How can such tasks be competently performed by an organization that does not require its members on entry to have gained even a single educational O level and that trains them in some ways like front line troops?"

This was made for the police, society and for justice which has now found itself in a situation of double jeopardy where not only the innocent were convicted but the guilty go free, Mr Kennedy said.

The average conviction rate of the crown court, of under 50 per cent, would seem partly at least to bear that out.

"This state of affairs is a direct consequence of the adversary system of justice," Mr Kennedy said he did not believe matters would be improved by the new prosecution service where the police will no longer be in charge of prosecuting crime, because they would still be responsible for investigating it.

"Is it not the pressure on the police, both from their superiors and from society, to get results, coupled with a sense of failure and frustration at not getting them, that drives them on so many occasions to egg the pudding?"

They called for a body of neutral legal figures, possibly stipendiary magistrates, akin to the French system of examining magistrates.

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Warning of trial split

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

The new crown prosecution service is in danger of creating a split between prosecuting and defending barristers which could weaken the future quality of judges, a circuit leader said yesterday.

Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, leader of the north eastern circuit, said there was a "disturbing" trend towards centralization so that there were fewer paymasters of prosecution and defence work.

If the prosecution was to be a centralized organization, and the defence left to small firms of solicitors and other barristers the Bar would be "vivisected".

"The great good, honourable and favoured will be prosecuting and others left to defend," Mr Gray said.

That could lead to the physical separation of prosecuting and defence counsel which now existed at the Central Criminal Court where the prosecution had its own rooms.

The result, he said, would be some barristers becoming "prosecution minded", and others "defence oriented" and the balance that was essential would be lost.

In turn that could affect the judges of the future. "10 years to come a future Lord Chancellor will want to appoint some new judges and will go to circuit leaders and ask who is fit to be made a circuit judge," Mr Gray said.

"The answer may be, do you want a prosecutor or defender? We don't have all

that many who are balanced in the physical separation of prosecuting and defence counsel," Mr Gray said that the new prosecution service could also lead to changes in the way barristers were paid. What was already happening was that the service wanted counsel to present the whole list of cases in the magistrates' courts and be paid for a session's work instead of by the traditional brief fee.

But the trend would not stop there, he said. On visits to the circuit he had seen perhaps 30 barristers doing 10 case lists. That was not cost effective.

The "Treasury-led critics" would be bound to voice the same complaint and suggest that the system of pay for magistrates' courts be extended to the crown court.



Mr Ludovic Kennedy (right) with Mr Gilbert Gray, QC, leader of the northern eastern circuit.

Support for juries in complex fraud trials

The jury is a cornerstone of our unwritten constitution and must be retained for complex fraud trials, Mr Michael Hill, QC, chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, told the conference.

"I have seen juries do extraordinary things. But then I have seen judges do equally extraordinary things," he said.

He added that he had also seen juries in "very brave things, reacting against what they perceive to be oppression, even if that reaction could be castigated as flying in the face of the evidence and of clear judicial guidance."

Mr Hill was speaking on the likely impact of the Roskill report on fraud trials, which suggests that juries in complex fraud be scrapped and replaced with a fraud trials tribunal.

Jury trials in complex fraud took a long time, cost a lot of money and imposed a considerable burden on lawyers, judges and juries, he said.

But the truth was that the profession and the legislators had been caught out by the size and complexity of modern fraud.

"It seems a little illogical to say that the cure is to abolish the audience because the playwright, the producers, the directors and the actors are not doing their job properly."

Juries were also needed to protect the system, Mr Hill said. They represented the public's involvement in the criminal process. "Just think of the effect upon an already-divisive society of the first acquittal in a major City fraud trial by a fraud trials tribunal made up of the good and godly."

There would be significant changes in other fields as a result of the Roskill report, he said, with considerable impact on the trial process and the Bar's work practices.

The Bar had called for such reforms for years and was determined that the chance now offered by the report should not be lost. But Mr Hill took issue with a number of the report's key proposals.

Looking at proposals likely to be implemented, he said that a new single body in charge of all fraud investigation was a good idea. But he was concerned that the proposed involvement of lawyers at an early stage in an investigation posed a threat to their independence.

He also took issue with the Roskill proposal for improving pre-trial procedures by compulsory defence disclosure of its case.

Judicial system criticized

By a Staff Reporter

Speakers at a conference workshop on public law criticized the present judicial system for being unsatisfactory and unwieldy.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, the chairman of the workshop, predicted that the role of the courts as watchdogs over the executive would be undermined unless the laws were changed.

"Litigants find themselves crumpled in a new web of procedural technicalities largely spun of different threads from the old," he said, adding that it was a reproach to a mature system of justice.

Professor Jeffrey Jowell, Dean of the Law School at University College, London, said British citizens did not enjoy the same rights as Europeans because administrative law developed in EEC countries was rarely applied here.

He believed courts in Britain would have to tread carefully and condemn the present judicial guidelines for being "vague and unwieldy."

IF YOU WANT TO GET AHEAD, GET THE TIMES LEGAL APPOINTMENTS EVERY TUESDAY

Rising cost of insurance

By a Staff Reporter

There is growing concern in the legal profession about the increasing premiums lawyers are having to pay for insurance against cases of negligence, and the tough standards imposed by judges on lawyers accused of unprofessional conduct.

The feelings were aired yesterday during a workshop on Liability for Professional Negligence at the Bar conference. Speakers and the audience called for new measures to meet the growing problems faced in their profession.

Among the suggestions made by some of the 100 assembled barristers and solicitors were for a fund to help meet compensation in cases of professional negligence and a statutory limit for sums paid to plaintiffs.

There are fears that the type of negligent suits filed in the United States for professional negligence may be repeated here. Since 1950, nearly half the cases of professional negligence have been brought to court in the past five years.

Lawyers are now facing rapidly-increasing insurance premiums and some solicitors in the City are refused insurers in large corporate deals where premiums are too high.

One delegate said lawyers were even having to take out insurance to their deaths, because the statute of limitations for cases of negligence did not expire for 15 years.

Mr Rupert Jackson, a barrister and co-author of Professional Negligence, said that in spite of the laws applicable to all professions in cases of negligence, the courts did not behave even-handedly towards each professional category.

Mr Peter Scott, QC, vice-chairman of the Bar Council, said accountants had already proposed a list of recommendations regarding cases of negligence to their profession. He said the time would come shortly when the Bar Council should decide whether to approve similar measures.

One pupil barrister, Miss Sue Hunter, said the conference and workshops worked very well.

"You rarely meet barristers out of court, and this is a good opportunity to talk with colleagues interested in the same field of law," she said.

Delegates agreed that the more complex the profession, the more the legal system relies on expert witnesses.

In the case of lawyers, judges often made up their own minds, and because the judges were generally good lawyers, they set a high standard for the defendant to meet.

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HOOVER 1365 Electronic	800	219.99
HOOVER 1365 Electronic	1100	284.99
controlled	1100	284.99
HOTPOINT 16870 Microcronic	1000	259.99
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Indesit 16870 Microcronic	1000	259.99
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Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
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CREDIA 4300 Electronic	1100	284.99
CREDIA 4300 Electronic	1100	284.99
CREDIA 4300 Electronic	1100	284.99
CREDIA 4300 Electronic	1100	284.99

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Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
CANDY 510 Electronic	234.95	
HOOVER D1140 Dishwasher	12	29.99
Indesit D11200	12	29.99

Vacuum Cleaners

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
Upright		
ELECTROLUX 410 with tank	59.95	
ELECTROLUX 410 with tank	70.95	
ELECTROLUX 410 with tank	70.95	
ELECTROLUX 410 with tank	70.95	
ELECTROLUX 410 with tank	70.95	

Refrigeration

Refrigerators

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
ELECTROLUX 122	10	79.95
ELECTROLUX 122	10	79.95
ELECTROLUX 122	10	79.95
ELECTROLUX 122	10	79.95
ELECTROLUX 122	10	79.95

Deep Freezers

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
Chest Freezers <td></td> <td></td>		
ELECTROLUX YCE 55	5.2	127.95
ELECTROLUX YCE 55	5.2	127.95
ELECTROLUX YCE 55	5.2	127.95

Electric Cookers

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
Free-Standing		
BELLING 4300	129.95	
BELLING 4300	129.95	
BELLING 4300	129.95	
BELLING 4300	129.95	
BELLING 4300	129.95	

Small Appliances

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
Cooking Appliances		
Sandwich Toaster	18.25	
Sandwich Toaster	18.25	
Sandwich Toaster	18.25	
Sandwich Toaster	18.25	
Sandwich Toaster	18.25	

Dual Fuel Cookers

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
NEW WORLD Dual Fuel 500	349.90	
PARKINSON COWAN 506	319.90	

Food Mixers

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
Blenders		
BRAUN KR20 Hand Blender	14.25	
BRAUN KR20 Hand Blender	14.25	
BRAUN KR20 Hand Blender	14.25	

Colour T.V.'s

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
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CASIO 8210N11 Automatic	3.45	
CASIO 8210N11 Automatic	3.45	

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Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
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ALBA CS2 LW/MW/VHF	11.95	
ALBA CS2 LW/MW/VHF	11.95	

Radio Cassettes

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
ALBA CS2 LW/MW/VHF	11.95	
ALBA CS2 LW/MW/VHF	11.95	
ALBA CS2 LW/MW/VHF	11.95	

Video

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
Video Recorders		
VEES FERUSION 374	339.95	
VEES FERUSION 374	339.95	
VEES FERUSION 374	339.95	

Television

Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
Black & White T.V.'s		
BINATONE Starvision 12 in.	49.95	
BINATONE Starvision 12 in.	49.95	
BINATONE Starvision 12 in.	49.95	

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Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
GOODMANS FM70 stereo player	25.95	
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Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
MOTOROLA 184 LW/MW (dash)	25.90	
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Model	Current Price	Inc. VAT
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ANSWERCALL 1000	22.95	
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Slide Cameras		
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Israeli attorney-general defies pressure to withdraw spy chief case

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Zamir, the Israeli Attorney-General, complained yesterday that he was facing "the most severe pressures ever brought upon me" from the Government to drop the prosecution of Mr Avraham Shalom, head of Shin Bet, the counter-intelligence service.

Mr Zamir said, however, that he was withstanding the pressures and was determined to press on with the case. Israel was facing a very important matter of principle involving the rule of law and the principles of justice.

Most of the inner Cabinet, which discussed the case at length on Monday, believes that a risk to the security services is involved. Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, is understood to be

determined to oppose Mr Zamir's arguments, although he does not contest the legal right of the senior law officer to institute the prosecution. Mr Zamir has refused to make public any details of the case, which involves the deaths of two Palestinians in Shin Bet custody. They had been captured by the Army on a bus they had hijacked to Gaza in April 1984.

Photographs showed them being taken from the bus looking fit, yet they died only a few hours later.

The two secret investigations into the incident largely cleared Shin Bet, although three of its agents were dismissed. One of them supplied information at a High Court hearing about the way evidence had been prepared for the two inquiries. Mr Zamir is using this in his prosecution.

Police are being instructed to investigate complaints that evidence was tampered with, that witnesses were suborned and that documents were

withheld from the commissions of inquiry.

The case is provoking a big political storm. Four no-confidence motions were tabled against the Government in the Knesset yesterday, with support from both sides of the House.

The right wants Mr Zamir dismissed and is furious with the Government for not stopping the prosecution. The left supports him and is furious with the Government for putting pressure on him.

Mr Zamir is no stranger to controversy and has often been criticized for turning what is supposed to be a non-political job into a left-wing institution. Bowing to this criticism he has already announced that he is prepared to resign. There have been calls for limits on the Attorney-General's powers.

Yesterday, however, he made clear that he will stay on long enough to ensure that the investigation into Shin Bet is properly launched.

Street party farewell for Thatcher



Mrs Margaret Thatcher carrying flowers as she arrives in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan on the final visit of her trip to Israel. She was greeted by flags, speeches and a street party. The town is rather undistinguished, but it has the distinction of being twinned with Finchley, her constituency (Ian Murray writes from Jerusalem). In Jerusalem yesterday the Union Jacks were coming down as Mrs

Thatcher's trip ended. But in marked contrast to when this last happened 38 years ago there was no joy about it, rather a hint of sadness. Whatever it may have achieved on a political level, there can be little doubt that the visit is being seen as marking an historic turning point in the relations between the young country and the occupying power it fought to force out.

This first visit by a serving British Prime Minister has publicly put to an end the uneasy love-hate relationship which has existed between the two countries since independence. For her arrival Mrs Thatcher had carefully chosen a suit to match exactly the vivid blue markings of the white Israeli flag. Mrs Thatcher was guilty of a slip of the tongue at her final press

conference which helped to endear her to the Israelis, describing Jerusalem as "the capital" of the country, something which the world at large refuses to accept. Her progress throughout the country was little short of royal, and in Ashkelon she beamed happily when the mayor, Mr Eli Dayan, told her: "I can promise you that this constituency will always vote in your favour."

Coppola's son killed on river

Edgewater, Maryland (UPI) — The son of the film director Francis Ford Coppola was killed and actor Ryan O'Neal's son was injured when their motorboat ran under another boat's tow line.

Gian Carlo Coppola, aged 23, of Apple Valley, California, suffered massive head injuries and was dead on arrival at Anne Arundel County General Hospital.

The accident occurred on the South River, off the shores of Edgewater, a tourist town near Chesapeake Bay. Mr Griffin Patrick O'Neal, aged 21, who suffered a minor shoulder injury, had been arrested earlier in a Washington suburb and charged with reckless driving, driving without a license and carrying a concealed weapon — a ballistic knife.

Bonner's plea to Mitterrand

Paris (Reuters) — Mrs Yelena Bonner met President Mitterrand to seek his help in persuading the Kremlin to end the exile of Dr Andrei Sakharov, her husband, to the closed city of Gorky.

Mr Mitterrand, who has frequently raised the case of Dr Sakharov with the Kremlin in the past, is to travel to Moscow at the end of July to see Mr Gorbachev.

Miles wins in strong field

Bugojno, Yugoslavia (AP) — Two Soviet former world chess champions, Anatoly Karpov and Boris Spassky, both of the Soviet Union, drew their first-round game in a strong field here.

But Anthony Miles of Britain beat Ljubomir Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) after 22 moves.

Wanted man

Miami (AP) — Michael Dwayne Siebert, an 18-year-old accused of kidnapping and savagely beating a British nurse on holiday, is also wanted in the state of Maryland on charges of attempting to kill one woman and kidnapping another.

Two accused

Melbourne (AP) — Melbourne police have charged two men with murder and setting off a car bomb outside police headquarters that resulted in a 24-year-old policewoman's death and injured 21 others on March 27.

Campus toll

Lagos (AP) — The bodies of four women students have been found on the campus of Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, bringing the death toll to 19 from a clash between students and armed police.

Four held

Vancouver (Reuters) — Four men have been charged with attempted murder after the weekend shooting of Mr Malkiat Singh Sidhu, a visiting Cabinet minister from India's Punjab state.

Golden car

Monaco — A 24-carat gold-plated Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost made in 1910 which once belonged to the King of Siam has been sold by Sotheby's in Monaco for £252,700 — a European auction record for a Rolls-Royce and the highest price ever paid at auction in France for a car.

Salmon lift

Monistrol d'Allier, France (AFP) — A £110,000 lift has been constructed to allow salmon to climb a hydro-electric dam near here and return to their ancestral spawning grounds on the river Allier, in central France.

Berlin envoys put checks to the test

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Diplomats from the East Berlin embassies of Britain, the United States and France yesterday made test runs across the Berlin Wall after the row over passport checks by East German soldiers — and were allowed through without having to show their passports.

But on most occasions the East Berlin guards, after apparently consulting superiors, told them they were being allowed through "for the last time" to that way.

On Thursday the East German foreign ministry sent a letter to all embassies in East Berlin saying that their personnel would have to produce passports at the crossing points into West Berlin instead of the identity card issued by the ministry.

On Sunday the guards started to refuse crossing to diplomats who failed to do so. Italians and Danes were among diplomats who returned to East Berlin rather than show their passports.

Yesterday the wife of the Portuguese ambassador was turned back. She had wanted to cross over to meet her husband, who was arriving at Tegel airport in West Berlin. The dispute appears to have arisen out of East Germany's periodic attempts to establish that Berlin is its capital.

Britain, the United States and France say that Berlin remains an occupied city administered in sectors by the three Western powers and the Soviet Union.

East Berlin remains the Soviet occupation sector, and any change in the city's status must await a long-delayed peace treaty.

Only the Soviet Union recognises East Berlin as the East German capital. The embassies of the Western occupying powers to East Berlin are regarded by them as being in East Germany, but not situated in its capital. In official East German statements, and in its maps and road signs, the capital is referred to as Berlin, not just East Berlin.

The three Western powers oppose the showing of passports because, in their view, that would imply that the crossing points at the wall, and at the River Spree which runs through the city, constituted a national border rather than the line of an occupation sector.

In order to avoid suggesting that East Germany has any rights to the matter, Britain, the United States and France are raising the issue with the Soviet Union, as fellow occupiers.

The West Berlin daily *Tagesspiegel* reported yesterday that the Soviet Union fully supported the decision of the East German Government.

Theoretically, the three Western powers could break off diplomatic relations with East Germany if the demand for passports is pressed.

The problem will be discussed today by British, US, French and West German representatives at a Nato meeting at Halifax, Canada.

Leading article, page 17

Madrid decree met with call for dock strike

Madrid — A government announcement yesterday of a reorganisation of Spain's 10-day strike, paralysed by a dockworkers' strike call from dock workers (Richard Wigg writes).

By a decree law, approved at last Friday's Cabinet meeting but kept secret until yesterday, the Government decided to abolish the Port Workers' Organization and instead set up 27 port companies.

The stevedores, protesting that they were not consulted, called another 10-day strike to start next Tuesday.

Hurd in US to discuss drugs and terrorism

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, arrived here yesterday for a two-day visit which will focus on the fight against terrorism and drugs. He is expected to voice Britain's concern at the delay in Senate ratification of the US-British Extradition Treaty.

Mr Hurd is also interested in the US experience in combating drugs, especially in poor and inner city areas. He will visit a housing estate today in a black part of Washington where the residents

have fought back against drug dealers and unemployment.

The low-income Kenilworth Estate was one of the city's worst drug areas when administered by the Government. Since the 400-unit estate has been turned over to its 3,000 residents the number of people on welfare has fallen dramatically and vigilantes have kept drug dealers away.

The US Administration has promised to strengthen enforcement of measures against the IRA.

A year after Heysel

Belgians relive riot horror

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The Heysel football stadium in Brussels looks peaceful enough a year after the tragedy, its giant floodlights glinting in the May sun.

But the people who live in its shadow remember vividly the appalling mayhem of the Liverpool-Juventus match in which parts of the stadium collapsed as fans fought pitched battles.

Thirty-nine people died, and although remorseful fans from Liverpool and Turin are laying wreaths for the anniversary tomorrow the violence is like a stain which fades but cannot be washed out.

"It was terrifying," a shopkeeper near the stadium said yesterday, evidently still shaken. "I only hope to God it never happens again."

Many Belgians fear that it could. They feel that the Government, while blaming Liverpool hooligans for their "murderous attacks", has failed to come to terms with the implications of the tragedy for Belgium.

The Interior Minister, Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, this week released a long-awaited report on stadium

safety after Heysel. Its recommendations include stronger fencing to keep rival fans apart, improved control of access and exit points, better co-ordination between the police and visiting clubs, and a ban on alcohol.

But the report concentrates on technical points and avoids the kind of analysis to a parliamentary report last year which pinpointed deficiencies in Heysel security. Only 70 officers were inside the stadium when Z block, where British fans were concentrated, collapsed.

The European Football Association also criticized the "terrible passivity" of the Belgian police. The police chief, who was in the stadium, had to find a public phone-box to call for reinforcements.

There has been a minor shake-up in the Brussels police since Heysel. But Mr Nothomb refused to step down, and remained Interior Minister when the Martens Government was re-formed last autumn.

The extradition from Britain of 30 youths, allegedly identified as Liverpool hooli-

gans, to face trial in Belgium this year will help the catharsis, but extradition could take months.

Meanwhile violence continues in European football — including local Belgian matches — and only low-key internationals are being played at Heysel. Late last month Belgium and Bulgaria played a World Cup warm-up game amid tight security, the first time Heysel has been used since the disaster.

Two Euro-MPs — Mr George Stevenson (Labour, Staffordshire East), and Mme Raymonde Dury, a Belgian Socialist — are organizing annual friendly matches between youngsters from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and their Belgian counterparts to try and repair the damage to Anglo-Belgian relations.

But restoring confidence in Brussels as a host of big internationals is another matter — and nobody, least of all the Brussels people, appears able even to contemplate an important match involving a British team until many more Heysel anniversaries have passed and been atoned for.

Assad gets a hearing in Athens

From a Correspondent Athens

President Assad of Syria discussed terrorism with the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Andreas Papandreu, yesterday.

It is eight years since the Syrian leader last travelled to a Nato member country, and his trip here has been interpreted as an effort to counter Western accusations that Syria supports terrorism.

President Assad said Syria opposed terrorism and condemned the United States and Israel for launching armed attacks under the pretext of combating it.

But he drew a distinction between terrorism and what he called "national resistance struggles against colonialism" and "liberation".

Mr Papandreu often draws the same distinction. MOSCOW: Mr Gorbachev met Colonel Gaidarov's second-in-command, Mr Abdel Salam Jalloud, here yesterday. It is the first visit to Moscow by a senior Libyan since the US raids last month (Reuters reports).

AMMAN: King Hassan of Jordan is trying to arrange a reconciliation meeting between the presidents of Iraq and Syria to make an early Arab summit possible. Western diplomats said.

Lebanon hit by collapse of currency

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The hopelessness of Lebanon's political and military situation has brought about a new and apparently unpreventable crisis in the country's economy: a collapse of the Lebanese pound — by more than a third in seven weeks — every bit as dramatic as the grim events which have caused its downfall.

Claims by the Shia Muslim leader, Mr Nabih Berri, that Mr Yassir Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is plotting to destabilize southern Lebanon, and allegations by the Christian Phalangist commander, Mr Samir Geagea, that the Syrian security police were behind car bombings in east Beirut over the past week have helped to create the worst fall in the Lebanese pound — to 47 per cent of its value since the pound sterling — since the country gained its independence.

Already Mr Berri and Mr Camille Chamoun, the Christian Maronite Minister of Finance, are engaged in a damaging dispute over the

economy, in which the former is making thinly veiled suggestions that the country's finances have been channelled into a bank on the Christian side of the Beirut front line.

On a more real level, the cost of meat in west Beirut has risen by as much as 100 per cent in only six weeks. The price of beef has gone up from 40 to 90 Lebanese pounds (approximately £2) per kilo since early April, and mutton has gone from 85 Lebanese pounds a kilo to 150.

A fierce battle between Mr Berri's Amal militia and PLO men loyal to Mr Arafat continued for a second day around the Bourj el-Barajneh Palestinian camp in west Beirut yesterday, with warnings from

Muslim radio stations that the Phalangists were moving military equipment across the east of the city.

Mr Geagea's claims of Syrian involvement in the car bombings were accompanied by the names of those he believes to be responsible. A recent car bomb in Jounieh, he said, had been rigged in the basement of a furniture showroom in the northern city of Tripoli "under the supervision of two Syrian majors", while other bombs had been made in a converted garage in the Bekaa town of Hermel.

Mr Geagea named several Lebanese as responsible for the explosions, including a man he claims is a teacher in a Tripoli college, and a Syrian

security man whom he referred to as "Ahmed Tebbo". For his part, Mr Berri is implying that the PLO was responsible for shooting at a UN helicopter containing French parliamentarians last week for attacks on French troops of the UN force in southern Lebanon and for the murder last Saturday of Father Boutros Abi-Akl, the director of the Christian Cadmos school outside Tyre.

There are suspicions in Beirut that some of the latter deeds may have been perpetrated by Mr Berri's own co-revolutionists in the Hezbollah movement, while the east Beirut bombings could have been the work of Mr Geagea's own opponents within the Christian area north of the capital.

The irony of all this is that Mr Berri's enemies — the PLO — are also Mr Geagea's enemies; while the Syrians, who are themselves bitterly opposed to Mr Geagea, also despise Mr Arafat and his PLO supporters. As usual in Lebanon, the Palestinians are turning out to be the butt of most people's hatred.

Clash in Beirut camp

Beirut (Reuters) — Eight people were killed and about 60 wounded in the fighting between Palestinians and Shia Muslims at Beirut's biggest Palestinian refugee camp, security sources said yesterday.

The 15-hour battle raged off late last night at Bourj el-Barajneh, after the area was

hit by artillery fire from Christian-Muslim fighting on the nearby "green line" battlefield.

In a separate incident yesterday, a mother and son were killed and five people injured when a bomb exploded in front of a lift in a building in Christian east Beirut.

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Bulldozers move into Crossroads

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

A dozen government bulldozers moved into the Crossroads squatter camp yesterday and began levelling the area devastated during savage faction fighting last week. More than 4,000 shacks were destroyed, at least 42 people killed and more than 20,000 left homeless.

The Government says it intends to redevelop the area for black housing but will not allow former residents to return.

The plan is to shift them to a vast new black township called Khayitsha on windswept sand dunes about 15 miles south-east of Cape Town. Most are reluctant to go because of the cost of commuting to Cape Town.

A case of typhoid was reported yesterday from one of the emergency relief centres where refugees from Crossroads have been given temporary shelter. A district council medical officer, Dr L.R. Tibbit, said instructions he had issued last week for the digging of pit latrines had not been carried out.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has issued a temporary injunction restraining the police, the Army and vigilantes from permitting or taking part in attacks on the remaining residents of Crossroads. Vigilantes are widely alleged to have been helped by police in last week's fighting.

The application for the injunction was made on Monday by six squatter leaders who claimed that the destruction of the shacks had been part of "a systematic plan". They said police and soldiers had threatened to attack other parts of the camp if these were not evacuated.



A woman fleeing the Crossroads camp with her child and a sheet of building iron as a bulldozer starts to clean up.

The vigilantes, known as "witdoeke" (white handkerchiefs) from the white arm-bands they wear, are led by Mr Johnson Ngobongwana, a conservative figure who at one time ran the Crossroads settlement as a private fiefdom, exacting tithes and rents from other squatters.

In the past year of unrest, his position has been challenged by politically radical youngsters, who call themselves "the comrades" and are mostly members of the United Democratic Front, a loose alliance of more than 600 grassroots anti-apartheid organizations.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly, the white chamber of Parliament, yesterday cancelled an emergency debate on the Crossroads allegations, on the grounds that the matter was *sub judice*.

The court injunction is valid until June 13 when it will lapse unless extended. Meanwhile, the police and Army will have an opportunity to present evidence rebutting the squatters' allegations.

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More political fallout after Chernobyl

EEC move to replace East bloc food ban

From Richard Owen
Brussels

The EEC yesterday moved towards a new system for monitoring radiation in imported foodstuffs to replace the outright ban on East European imports imposed earlier this month after the Chernobyl disaster.

The ban expires on Saturday, but farm ministers ruled out compensation payments from EEC coffers for European farmers who have suffered losses as a result of anti-radiation measures.

The ban on East European food was proposed by the Commission on May 6, but ran into national differences among the Twelve over a scale for measuring radiation in food traded within the EEC. The ban was held up for over a week and was only eventually adopted on condition that it would be reviewed by the end of May.

EEC ambassadors met yesterday in an attempt to agree on a new scale for monitoring radiation in food entering the EEC from all third countries. The move again encountered problems when some countries objected that the levels laid down for external trade were at odds with those in force in parts of the Community.

Finns step back from the brink

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

Finland's Rural party yesterday backed away from causing a government crisis and withdrew a motion which demanded the dismantling of the nation's four nuclear reactors by the year 2000.

The party is a junior partner in the four-party centre-left coalition of the Prime Minister, Mr Kalevi Sorsa, and its populist policies have led to frequent clashes.

Mr Sorsa made it clear that the Government would resign if the Rural party did not withdraw its motion, which he said would undermine the coalition's ability to handle energy policies.

The Rural party's parliamentary group needed only a short morning meeting to toe the line. Collapse of the Government would almost certainly have meant snap elections, and the party is doing badly in the opinion polls.

These difficulties were the motive behind the strongly anti-nuclear motion because the party badly needs new incentives.

The motion was a clear expression of how sensitive the nuclear power question has become in Finland, a country which produces more than 40 per cent of its electricity.

Environmentalists have campaigned against ordering a

fifth 1,000-megawatt reactor, and most parties were in difficulties with their rank and file even before Chernobyl. The disaster hit like lightning in the middle of a tense internal debate, and the fifth reactor will not now be ordered before the next elections in March 1987, if ever.

Mr Sorsa's coalition faces another test next week when it

UK strategy review

Mrs Thatcher will review Britain's preparedness to face a nuclear disaster (Jan Murray writes from Jerusalem). During her visit to Israel she met Dr Yair Reiser, who was invited to Moscow to help carry out bone marrow transplant surgery on Chernobyl victims. He told her precious time was lost in tissue typing those who had been exposed and that this had made treatment difficult.

defends its actions against a no-confidence motion from the Conservative opposition.

This criticizes the Government's inability to give accurate and quick information about the effects of the Chernobyl accident.

The Government's handling of the disaster caused an immediate outcry because it also fed unfounded rumours about dangerously high radioactivity levels.

Abe heads for cool reception

From David Watts
Tokyo

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, walks into the bear's cage tomorrow. He is likely to get a cool reception in Moscow on Chernobyl and terrorism, and will find himself having to account, as the representative of the chairman of the seven Western summit nations, for their stance on both issues.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry admits that the Soviet reaction, particularly on Chernobyl, is likely to be "fierce" and may well overshadow any hopes that the Japanese have of progress on bilateral issues.

Mr Abe will also be explaining the summit nations' assessment of the present state of East-West relations in the absence of the meeting between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, which was to have been held this month.

The Japanese are keen to institutionalize meetings between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries, but that hardly accounts for the choice of what is an awkward moment when Moscow can make full play of Japan's endorsement of apparently anti-Soviet positions.

The timing has more to do with Japanese domestic politics than international considerations - Mr Abe is likely to be a strong candidate to replace the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, this autumn and would like to have a successful visit to Moscow among his credentials.

Mr Abe's visit will be brief so the chances of progress must be slim, unless Moscow's desire for Japanese technology tips the balance.

Kohl goes on nuclear offensive

From Frank Johnson
Bonn

The Christian Democrats (CDU), who have been on the defensive for weeks about whether the Chernobyl disaster proves that nuclear power is unsafe in West Germany, have begun a counter-offensive to show it proves nothing of the sort.

Chancellor Kohl said the Government will check safety in all nuclear plants and emphasized that Chernobyl tells us more about the Soviet Union in general than about nuclear power in general.

"The inadequate information policy of the Soviet Union after the reactor accident in Chernobyl has not strengthened confidence in Soviet arms control proposals, especially in their verification," he said.

Vogel's remarks to a meeting of young Christian Democrats last Monday got Kohl wide press coverage when he said: "It's pathetic of the SPD (Social Democrats) to say 'We're going to shut nuclear power plants down soon'." He described the widespread West German opposition to nuclear power as "stupid cultural pessimism".

The Prime Minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Herr Lothar Späth, said a short-term abandoning of nuclear energy would have catastrophic ecological consequences.

And the Federal Minister of Research and Technology, Herr Hans Riesenhaner, said the renunciation of nuclear energy by industrial nations would have direct consequences for the Third World.

If the world's developed nations bought up the limited amounts of fossil energy it would create additional difficulties for those with growing populations, he said.

The Christian Democrat counter-offensive has come not a moment too soon for the party's candidates in the Lower Saxony Land election on June 15.

Chernobyl seems to have turned this into a close contest - with the SPD now favourites to take over government from the CDU. But it is probably too late to decide the outcome.

There remains, however, the general election, due next January. A leading opinion poll said Chernobyl had affected public opinion more than the 1962 Cuba crisis.

Honduras seeks reward for backing Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Azcona of Honduras is seeking to wring more aid out of a reluctant United States in return for continued support of President Reagan's assault on Nicaragua.

Without Honduran help the Contra battle would certainly collapse. It might do so anyway if Congress next month rejects Mr Reagan's request for \$100 million (£66 million) in aid for the rebels.

The two presidents met at the White House yesterday to discuss the rebels' crisis and to study the outcome of the summit of Central American leaders in Guatemala at the weekend, which failed to produce a substantial regional peace agreement.

Honduras is clearly following a highly dangerous course in throwing in its lot so enthusiastically with America's anti-Sandinista campaign. Should the Contras disintegrate, Honduras would have to deal with about 10,000 homeless fighters and their relatives.

President Azcona, who was elected three months ago, has delighted the Reagan Administration by publicly supporting the onslaught against Nicaragua.

No match for a lady

New York (Reuter) - A purse-snatcher was in jail yesterday because he tried to rob an English aristocrat, aged 87. Lady Sarah Tucker was near her Fifth Avenue flat when José Ramos, aged 30, sped by on his bicycle and

snatched her handbag. A police spokesman said: "Lady Sarah chased him and caught up with him at a traffic light. She knocked him off his bicycle and started beating him about the head with her umbrella. Police arrived... to find Ramos cowering."

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Premier army in Bangladesh political

Speaker of Pakistan

Lange tour worries opponents

Premier sacks army chief in Bangkok political storm

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, the ambitious Thai Army commander-in-chief who was due to retire in three months, was yesterday dismissed because of his political activities. It was the first time in Thailand's modern history that a civilian government has dismissed its military chief.

On his return to Bangkok from a visit to the south, General Arthit said he would accept his dismissal. There would be no problems as he would be happy to work with his successor, General Chaovalit Yongchaiyuth, who met him at the airport.

General Arthit dismissed suggestions that sections of the Army might stage a coup in protest at his sacking. He said he would remain in the Army as supreme commander, a symbolic post with no troops under his command, until his retirement in August.

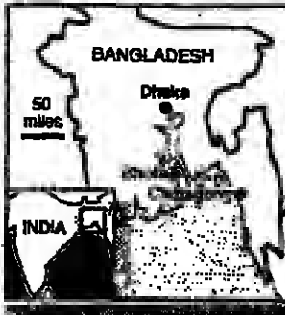
His dismissal followed months of wrangling with General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, and could have wide repercussions, particularly in the run-up to the general election on July 27.

The only government statement made yesterday came from its chief spokesman, who said the dismissal had been "made necessary by the ongoing situation". He is believed to have been referring

Father searches for son as the bodies pile up

From Ahmed Fazl Dhaka

Rahim Bhuiya, a village trader, was looking for his three-year-old son as divers brought in a fresh load of bodies from the ferry which sank in a storm on the River Meghna in Bangladesh.



Officials believe that about 400 of the estimated 600 on board were drowned in the second serious ferry disaster in five weeks. The over-crowded boat was caught in the storm on its way to Dhaka from the southern coastal island of Bhola.

Mr Bhuiya scrambled to see the bodies but officials quickly covered the pile with a white cloth. The corpses had become too bloated to be recognized.

Yesterday's clear blue sky over the southern Bangladesh township, about 85 miles from Dhaka, belied the tragedy at the weekend. But the piles of bodies and the sunken ferry were poignant reminders of Sunday night.

When I reached the town by speed boat, hundreds of curious villagers had lined the bank of the river.

With them mingled survivors like Mr Bhuiya. More than 150 bodies had to be handed over to relatives, but many were unclaimed and will be given a mass burial.

"We cannot keep these bodies any longer otherwise the whole area will be contaminated with the stench," Mr Saleh Hasan, a local magistrate who was helping the rescue operation, said.

President Ershad flew to the township in a helicopter on Monday. "Give them a decent burial," he ordered. "That's the only thing we can do now."

In April, another double-decker ferry carrying about 500 passengers went down about 25 miles from Dhaka. About 200 people are believed to have died.

The frequency of the disasters has embarrassed the Government. General Ershad has ordered the suspension of the use of double-decker ferries until qualified naval engineers have checked for design flaws.



Survivors huddle on the stricken Bangladeshi ferry which capsized in a storm on the Meghna river on Sunday night.

Tamils blast bridges

Colombo - Tamil guerrillas destroyed two small bridges in the Jaffna district to disrupt supplies. Sri Lankan security sources said yesterday (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The army camp established at Kavits last week is not affected, since supplies can be flown in.

The Ministry of National Security said three guerrillas were shot dead on Sunday in Amparai district of the Eastern Province when they tried to fire at police.

Nakasone chooses July date for poll

From David Watts Tokyo

The Japanese Cabinet decided yesterday to convene an extraordinary Diet session next Monday to clear the way for general elections in July. The session is expected to be dissolved almost immediately, despite opposition boycott threats, allowing the Government to hold elections in both houses on July 6.

Upper house elections were already due this summer and the Government hopes to benefit from a higher turnout by having both polls on the same day.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, secured approval for the poll after a last-minute bargaining session with the only leading member of the Liberal Democratic Party still holding out, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, chairman of the party's executive board and a possible challenger to Mr Nakasone for the party leadership this autumn.

The former foreign minister was persuaded to join the consensus after Mr Nakasone promised to abandon his policy of holding down expenditure in favour of using government money to reflate the economy this autumn - something Mr Miyazawa has been advocating for some time.

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Speaker ousted by Pakistan MPs

From Hasan Akhtar, Islamabad

The ruling official parliamentary group last night removed Mr Fakhr Imam, the Speaker of the Pakistan National Assembly, after a 10-hour debate on a no-confidence motion tabled by a member of the government party.

The action against Mr Imam arose from his decision on May 7 to refer to the chief election commissioner a question about the validity of the national assembly membership of the Prime Minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, and his party secretary, Mr Abdus Sattar Laleka.

The question had been raised in February by two independent members of the assembly.

Mr Imam was elected Speaker in March 1985 when President Zia, then military ruler of Pakistan, revived Parliament after eight-and-a-half years of martial law.

The Speaker had refused to join the ruling parliamentary party on its creation last February and was accused of subverting the Junejo Government by siding with independent members opposed to the Government.

He denied the charges and asserted that history would judge whether it was the Speaker or the Prime Minister who balanced the scales. Voting for the resolution was 152-72.

The reference Mr Imam had sent to the chief election commissioner could lead to the disqualification of Mr Junejo as an MP.

The 42-year-old Speaker, in a hard-hitting speech, accused Mr Junejo of perverting justice by ordering an inquiry into the ruling party to move the no-confidence resolution.

Without naming General Zia, Mr Imam disclosed that even before his election he had been telephoned and asked to stand down in favour of the regime's favourite.

Political observers believe that the Junejo Government, which has a narrow political base, has alienated a sizeable political segment in the country's biggest province, the Punjab, by ousting the independent Mr Imam.

Mr Junejo, from Sindh, faces a hostile political climate in his home province because of the regime's hanging of the former prime minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, in 1977.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, his daughter, who returned to Pakistan in April to lead the left-of-centre People's Party, has been campaigning for fresh elections under the constitution her father enacted in 1973.

Observers predict that Mr Imam's removal will give impetus to the political undercurrents in Punjab which claim that the leadership of the federation should go to the largest province.



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Lange tour worries opponents

From Richard Long Wellington

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, whose anti-nuclear policies are opposed by London and Washington, will begin a visit to Europe with a speech to an anti-nuclear group in Cologne tomorrow.

His scheduled address to the Sixth World Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War drew questions in Parliament, where the former Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, asked if Mr Lange would be pursuing his theme in spite of objections from the Bonn Government.

When Mr Lange recently criticized Nato nations for relying on the nuclear response, it was seen as the start of a move to export Wellington's anti-nuclear policies.

Labour Party officials here say Mr Lange is aware of the prospects of a backlash if he pushes the anti-nuclear line hard in countries which are jittery in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster.

Corruption crackdown in Kabul

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

A campaign against embezzlement, bribery and property theft is being waged by Dr Najib, the new Afghan leader.

Western embassies suggested yesterday that the campaign, which one diplomat called "Gorbachovism", was causing a good deal of fear among bureaucrats.

It was also suggested by a Western observer that Dr Najib was using the files he had amassed as head of Khad, the secret police, to silence opposition to his takeover from President Karmal.

The campaign was a theme of the Politburo meeting of the ruling People's Democratic Party on May 8. It has surfaced again in Dr Najib's addresses on his "meet, hear and instruct the people drive".

The publicity that his tour received in the Afghan media last week, as he met a border tribal assembly or a gathering of armed political commissars, reinforces the impression that he is heading, in the words of one diplomat, "a one-man triumvirate".

The other two triumvirs, President Karmal, whom Dr Najib replaced as party secretary, and Mr Sultan Ali Khatmand, the Prime Minister, have registered almost no presence in the media for three weeks.

Meanwhile, the campaign to close the border to guerrillas from Pakistan continues with unusual ferocity around the city of Khost. An Afghan military source described helicopter loads of casualties being brought back to Kabul, from the battle.



Mr Lange: concern over his anti-nuclear stance.

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Right against might

Amnesty International has been tracking torture and brutality for 25 years.

Caroline Moorehead reflects on its aims and successes



In Littlehampton, on the south coast, a retired pensioner sets off on his bicycle every morning with a saddle-bag full of leaflets and campaigning material. He knocks on doors, calls at offices, drops in on local church groups. What he is peddling is information: about Amnesty International, the human rights organization which this today celebrates its 25th anniversary; about its campaigns on torture and political killings; and about all the prisoners held around the world indefinitely and without charge or trial. His degree of dedication may appear impressive, but it is not unique: all over the world — AI has members in over 150 countries — other men on other bicycles are doing the same.

Often they come home disappointed. Concern for the misfortunes of others, particularly people incarcerated in countries far away, is a hard thing to peddle. But they have other activities to keep their morale high. The AI group in Littlehampton has recently merged with the one in Worthing. Together, the supporters number some 50 people, of whom 25 are hard-working. They are mostly elderly but extraordinarily keen. Their adopted prisoner is a Syrian, and the group has just embarked on a 100-day letter campaign, inundating the Syrian government with daily protest. The last six years have seen five of their adopted prisoners released. This is the most heartening result of all.

And yet Amnesty International's influence on the world's continual violation of basic

Torture, solitary confinement and murder by death squad cannot be so readily ignored

human rights impossible to assess. Cause and effect cannot be measured. Littlehampton and Worthing have been lucky: most adopted prisoners stay in prison.

AI's birth — out of an article in *The Observer* by a British lawyer called Peter Benenson calling the world's attention to the "forgotten prisoners" — is well known. After that, in rapid jumps, the organization grew. A budget of just over £7,000 in 1962 has become one of £6.4 million today, with 500,000 members working on behalf of some 4,500 prisoners. In the last couple of years, AI has been touching new ground: it has moved into Third World countries, and its groups are now spreading steadily across Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. To its many other activities has been added a network for dealing quickly with unexpected occurrences, like sudden short detentions, so that prisoners in countries like South Africa, where repeated spells of brief detention have become routine, can be helped instantly.

As the organization has spread, so its scope and interests have widened. To the adoption of prisoners and their allocation to groups for special attention has been added world-wide campaigning on most of the major human rights issues of the day, while repeated missions to countries have formed the basis for detailed and respected reports, receiving wide publicity. How much AI can be credited with the new protocols on torture and the death penalty cannot be calculated; but its repeated campaigning against torture is widely agreed to be among its finest work.

Like any group of its kind, AI has had its internal problems — though it is remarkable for having had only two secretary generals — and continues to have its critics. Other human rights organizations are irritated by its exclusiveness and its refusal to join group



Jamal Benomar: an "unknown prisoner" sustained by the knowledge he was known around the world

A HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL GRIEF

- 1961: May 28. Amnesty International formed after a British lawyer called Peter Benenson appealed on behalf of the "Forgotten Prisoners". In the weeks that followed, hundreds of newspapers, all over the world, wrote about the new organization.
- 1962: First annual report: 210 adopted prisoners; missions to Ghana, Czechoslovakia, Portugal, East Germany. 70 AI groups in seven countries.
- 1963: International Secretariat set up in London.
- 1964: United Nations gives AI consultative status.
- 1965: AI publishes reports on prison conditions in Portugal, South Africa and Romania.
- 1966: Torture becomes subject of particular concern.
- 1967: Fifth annual report: 2,000 adopted prisoners; 550 groups in 18 countries.
- 1968: Martin Ennals becomes Secretary General.
- 1969: Greece withdraws from Council of Europe after two-year AI campaign investigating torture. AI has 15,000 members. Budget: £23,000.
- 1970: AI circulates English translation of Soviet *Sovietizatsia: A Chronicle of Current Events*.
- 1971: AI commission inquires into Ulster torture allegations.
- 1972: World-wide campaign for the abolition of torture launched.
- 1973: Flight of 100,000 detainees in South Vietnam highlighted.
- 1974: AI reports human rights abuses — torture, summary executions — in Chile.
- 1975: Report on the treatment of political and religious prisoners in the USSR. AI has 1,522 groups, 7,000 members in 65 countries. Budget: £272,000.
- 1976: Despite death of Franco, Spain is found to be continuing its use of torture.
- 1977: Conference on the abolition of the death penalty.
- 1978: Reports on the long-term detention of political prisoners in Cuba and atrocities in Uganda.
- 1979: Report on human rights violations against children.
- 1980: Focus on prisoners of conscience forcibly confined in Soviet psychiatric hospitals.
- 1981: "Disappearances": a world-wide campaign on behalf of the missing. AI has 250,000 members in 151 countries.
- 1982: Report on human rights abuses in Pakistan.
- 1983: Political killings by governments documented in over 20 countries.
- 1984: New drive against torture: reports from 88 countries.
- 1985: Focus on disappearances in Peru and torture in Iraq. Campaign on behalf of conscientious objectors to military service.
- 1986: AI at 25: 500,000 members campaigning on behalf of over 4,500 prisoners. Budget: £5.4m.

appeals or protests, insisting on voicing its opinions on its own or not at all, a little self-satisfied, a little smug.

But even critics say that this fault is trivial compared with the extreme competence and dedication of the people who work for Amnesty — some 500 staff, 200 of them at the International Secretariat in London, with many highly qualified people heading research departments, paid a pale shadow of what they would earn elsewhere — and the fact that, more than any other organization of its kind, it has made people think. Even the most casual newspaper reader today cannot fail to know that torture has become systematic in at least 60 countries, or that children are "disappearing" in the highlands of Peru; and the human rights records of different countries and different political parties have become as significant as their economic performance and their domestic policies. As the director of another human rights group puts it, Amnesty has managed to "personalize human disaster".

Torture, endless solitary confinement and murder by death squads have not gone away, but they can no longer be so readily ignored.

Jamal Benomar was a 19-year-old student in sociology at Rabat University when, at midnight on January 9, 1976, eight secret service men broke into his house and carted him and his books away to a nearby detention centre. The sociology books and papers, bundled into boxes, were useful proof later that Jamal Benomar was a dangerous subversive.

He was, in fact, a member of En Avant, a banned group, mainly consisting of teachers and students, who had come together in 1970 to protest against political repression in Morocco and to petition for better education and health facilities as well as for free elections. Its magazine, *Hal Anam*, argued strongly against the war in the western Sahara, saying that the King would do better to negotiate a settlement with the Polisario. They knew that this would irritate the government.

The story of what happened to Jamal Benomar is depressingly familiar, the fate of many who oppose an oppressive regime: the outcome, however, is a happy one, and, better than many in his position, he has a clear idea of what Amnesty International was able to do for him.

Jamal spent the first four days of his captivity blindfolded, handcuffed and continually tortured by men who drank whisky as they tied him hanging from a bar between two desks, his head plunged in a bucket of excrement. From Rabat he was moved to Tangiers. There was no bed and no blankets in his cell, and he wore only the jeans in which he had been arrested. It was mid-winter. Food was one loaf of bread a day. There were no visits, no letters.

Still blindfolded and handcuffed, he was moved on to Casablanca, to the notorious Derb Moulay Cherif detention centre. Part of the torture consisted of keeping the prisoners permanently awake. He was put in a small cell with four others, but they were threatened with torture if they spoke to one another. He could hear the screams of new arrivals in neighbouring cells.

It was now that what had seemed a future without hope abruptly altered. Jamal was transferred to a civilian prison in Casablanca, where he was one of 130 political prisoners. Informed that they would receive no trial, the prisoners agreed to hunger strike. The King of Morocco was on a visit to France at the time. News of the strike spread. Seventeen days later, a date was set for the trial.

By now, Amnesty International was aware of what was happening. They had observers at the trial — the prisoners were charged with attempting

to overthrow the monarchy and setting up an illegal organization. Nothing could be done to ensure an unbiased hearing or to reduce the sentences (10 years for Jamal, up to 30 for others, with five sentenced to life imprisonment), but a campaign was building up across the world to agitate the prisoners' behalf.

Jamal was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by the Stockholm Amnesty group. Letters flowed in. The governor began to treat him rather more cautiously, especially after a phone call came through late one night from Sweden. What seemed to amaze the governor was the fact that anyone cared about an unknown young man in a Moroccan jail. It was unerving to be reminded that, if anything happened to him, the world would know, Jamal was no less bewildered, but profoundly heartened.

Always among the first to be arrested

Conditions did not improve instantly. Prisoners were split into groups and moved to different jails, to prevent collusion. Attacks by prison guards injured several of them, and the rights to study, to receive medical care and to get out of solitary confinement were only won after a 45-day hunger strike, on the fortieth day of which a young woman teacher died.

During all this time, AI and other human rights organizations in Europe were keeping up a continual crusade of protest. Through the rats, the inadequate food and the appalling medical facilities continued, small concessions, one after the other, were won: the right to talk, to receive visits, to study. "Everything helped," he says, "but Amnesty was at the front. Something had happened, and they became careful how they treated us."

On November 23, 1983, largely through the intervention of a friendly professor of sociology, Jamal was released. He had been in captivity for nearly eight years. He returned to his home town in the north. It took him only a few months to realize that Morocco was no longer a safe place for him to live. At every demonstration, every act of opposition, he was among the first to be arrested.

A year later, having been refused a passport, he managed to escape, again with Amnesty's help, and reached Britain, where he has been granted political asylum. Two weeks after arriving, he married Joyce Edling, a member of the AI group in Stockholm who had visited him in prison. Knowing only of James Joyce, Jamal had long imagined her to be a man.

The almost intolerable pressures that head teachers now face will be high on the agenda at their annual conference

Testing time for heads

Until recently, a head teacher had a fairly straightforward job. He — it was rarely she — may not have worn a gow and cracked a whip but he was respected and obeyed by teacher and pupil alike. Immune from parental moans and local authority edicts, he could run his school as he wished with minimum paperwork and maximum discretion.

That is no longer the case. The pressures have grown immeasurably as society has demanded more of schools, and teachers have grown increasingly disenchanted with their lot. The job of the average head has changed beyond all recognition in the past 15 years. He is now accountable to everyone and his priority is the "client" — child, parent, employer or politician.

Where once he could retreat to his study for a little cogitation, he now spends all day talking to people — to his staff to try and cheer them up, to a parent worried by a child's performance, to the chief education officer inquiring after teachers' industrial action, to the school governors about everything.

At the end of his working day he may have to take home more and more paperwork in order to catch up with form-filling, reports to governors and letters to parents.

Few head teachers would say the job was not extremely stressful some of the time. As their unions are fond of pointing out, this has led to significant numbers developing medical problems or taking early retirement. Local education authorities are finding it difficult to recruit heads

as the job becomes more complicated and the pressures more evident.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, whose union's annual conference begins in Cardiff today, says that heads have been expected for too long to accept every new educational initiative. They have had to absorb every new pressure uncomplainingly and irrespective of resources or whether they have the cooperation of staff.

"They are saying they have had enough. If teachers are demanding protection through a tighter contract, then we are entitled to that too. We demand proper resourcing and support for the work we are expected to do.

"I am sick and tired of hearing that heads are accountable to every Tom, Dick and Harry. We have got to have a contract defined in terms of line management through the governing body, to the local education authority, and we should stop expecting heads to be accountable to everybody, including society at large."

John Rex, head of Halton Middle School in Leeds, talks of increasing interference in financial matters. Heads in the Labour-controlled city have been told there are limits to the spending of money donated by parents. Such money may not be spent on books or equipment, the basic requirements of the school. The rationale behind this, he suggests, was presumably that the politicians felt it was wrong for some schools to benefit from munificent parents more than others.

Many heads speak with feeling about the teachers' pay dispute. Caught between parents and staff, they had to be crossingly found themselves in an exposed and lonely position. "We have been trying to introduce open and participative decision-making, and the industrial action has destroyed that without putting anything in its place," said Michael Duffy, head of King Edward VI comprehensive school in Morpeth.

The teachers' action meant that some heads had to do dinner duty virtually unaided. It has made it more difficult to get methodical work from students, and, according to Michael Marland, head of North Westminster School in London, it has replaced the school's organizational structure with one created by the National Union of Teachers. "All heads say the job can be very satisfying, and that great things can still be done. We have gone through a period of agonizing transformation," says Michael Pipes, head of City of Portsmouth boys' school. "We have got to pick ourselves up now and say that we have a vision for the future."

Lucy Hodges

FOUR REPORTS

● For John Rex, aged 60 (salary £17,000 a year), head of the 600-pupil Halton Middle School in Leeds, the worst pressures are those imposed by local politicians. He has decided to retire early because he has had enough.

"I felt when I first became a head that I was master of my own ship and, within reason, could not be unfairly interfered with. Today I feel that a head is subject to all sorts of pressures from other people."

The job has been made increasingly stressful by the teachers' action, with heads caught between their disenchanted staff and angry parents. "I think most heads regard their school as their own, and anything which disrupts it is taken personally. I

know perfectly well that staff in my school are not taking action personally against me, but I can't help feeling there is something personal about it.

"For all I've said, I don't think I would have wished to do another job. I enjoyed being a head teacher up until four or five years ago. Since then an awful lot of fun has gone out of it."

● Michael Marland, aged 51 (salary £23,500 including London allowance), is head of North Westminster School in west London.

He identifies the biggest single change as the greater accountability to parents, school governors and the community at large. "Things which were done in a peremptory way have been done now through complex procedures. Heads used to be able to set departmental budgets in the

and he believes that what will come out of the conference is "an enormous cry from the heart with heads saying the system is going downhill rapidly. We can't be expected to stick our fingers in the 'dyke' any longer."

One of the new pressures cited by a number of heads recently is political interference by the education authority. Many heads are no longer able to decide on issues such as discipline in areas where corporal punishment has been abolished or on whether the pupils should wear school uniform or jewellery.

For him the teachers' pay dispute has been "a disaster". He supervises 850 pupils from the upper school on his own at lunchtime because none of his teachers will do this job.

Despite it all, he finds being a head "a marvellous job". He is full of praise for the Inner London Education Authority and the support it gives, and says there is less tension and violence in London schools than previously.

● Michael Pipes, aged 48, (salary £23,500 a year) is head of the 1,200-pupil City of Portsmouth Boys' School. He likens his job to that of a chief executive in industry and says he is production, quality control and personnel manager rolled into one. He works a 50 to 60 hour week. "We are now having to work so hard to manage an inadequately resourced service that the stress levels are becoming apparent," he says.

When he became head of the school 11 years ago, he would have taken for granted the range of customers but without the sort of resources we need. We operate under such a range of new constraints that there are real pressures generated. I welcome the accountability, but I resent the failure of society as a whole to recognize that schools are doing a different and bigger job nowadays."

Describing the last 18 months as "gritty", he said he had watched the values of the education system being eaten away by the teachers' pay dispute.

● Michael Duffy, aged 51, (salary £21,500), head of King Edward VI school, a comprehensive with 1,300 pupils in Morpeth. In the past a head teacher's main concern was with children who could pass exams.

Now heads are expected to provide more education for everyone over a longer period of time. Duffy's working hours are 8.30 am to 5.30 pm, and in addition he works three or four evenings a week. "I think heads find the job more stressful because of the higher expectations that the community at large makes of us," he says.

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11 Tantalize (5) 20 Impressively display (5)
12 Go in (5) 21 (5)
13 Zenda kingdom (9) 22 Policy reversal (11,14)
14 Valley (4) 23 French-Swiss range (4)
15 Follow (4) 24
16 Bow weapon (5) 25 Sword (4)



We don't think your boss will like it, Mr. Ridley

Despite urgent warnings from ourselves, The National Canine Defence League, The British Veterinary Association, The National Farmers Union, and other key organisations, it is reported that the Department of the Environment is planning to abolish the dog licence.

An estimated half million unwanted dogs are roaming the country causing a catalogue of serious problems — road accidents, spreading

canine disease, fouling, attacking livestock, even attacking children. Massive dog overproduction is the root cause, and a sensible new licensing system to curb owner irresponsibility is vital. By scrapping controls, the Government is simply washing its hands of the problem. We believe it is a serious miscalculation that will backfire badly on the Environment Secretary.

So, Mr. Ridley, we implore you to reconsider. Before it's too late.



Charity in Action

Help us fight dog licence abolition

Write now to the Environment Secretary or your MP at the House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1.

I support the RSPCA campaign against dog licence abolition.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I enclose a donation of £ _____

or charge my Access/Bardycard No. _____

Return coupon with your donation to RSPCA, FREEPOST, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1ZA

Tomorrow

Down Mexico way . . .



On the books page, Peter Ackroyd reviews *The Old Gingo*, the latest novel by Carlos Fuentes (above), set south of the border at the time of the revolution.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 961

ACROSS
1 Malay skirt (6)
4 Limited (6)
7 Prohibition (4)
8 Was amazed (8)
9 Witty reply (8)
13 Ruddy (3)
16 Of garden cultivation (13)
17 Mammal foot (3)
19 Soak (8)
24 Elaborate dress (8)
25 Clip quickly (14)
26 Perspiring (6)
27 Write in symbols (6)

DOWN
1 Fiji capital (4)
2 Hyde Park ride (6,3)
3 W Wales peninsula (5)
4 Evade question (5)
5 Require (4)
6 Not those (5)
10 Assumed name (5)

11 Tantalize (5)
12 Go in (5)
13 Zenda kingdom (9)
14 Valley (4)
15 Follow (4)
16 Bow weapon (5)
20 Impressively display (5)
21 (5)
22 Policy reversal (11,14)
23 French-Swiss range (4)
25 Sword (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 960
ACROSS: 1 Swivel 5 Pace 8 Ought 9 Macabre 11 Euroract 13 Moist 23 Hyde 24 Tureen
DOWN: 2 Wager 3 Yai 4 Lombard Street 5 Pace 6 Ribbing 7 Moire 20 Sole 22 Mar

THE TIMES DIARY

For Maggie read Mary

The continuing strain on Anglo-Argentine relations seems to be permeating the film industry. The director Maria Luisa Bemberg has made a movie in which Julie Christie plays an English governess who revisits Argentina and has a love affair with a former charge, a young Argie film discovery called Donald McIntyre. The title was to have been *Miss Maggie*, which would have been carried overtones of the nation's least favourite foreign statesperson, dubbed by the press as Senora No during the Falklands war. Now the film is to be called *Miss Mary*. Boring.

Testimony

Religion, not romance, has been on Barbara Cartland's mind this week. From her country house in Hertfordshire she is planning the next moves in her campaign to have daily worship and weekly instruction in the Christian faith reintroduced in all state schools. The 84-year-old novelist took up the cause as her 1982 New Year resolution and has had many a thud of encouraging correspondence on her doormat. "I've heard from three or four clergymen," she reports, "and they say they wished the Archbishop of Canterbury thought like me."

Spadework

Lobbying the European Commission in Brussels is certainly a growth industry. Peter Pooley, the EEC's deputy director general for agriculture, tells me that among the 3,000 organizations who bend his ear are the Danish Federated Incorporated Mars Bar and Curant Bun Manufacturers and the Peloponnesian Association of Allied Dried Fig and Pistachio Nut Processors and Wholesalers.

Talking Turkey

Some intriguing translations from a restaurant menu to Istanbul. *Doner Kebab* is rendered as Lamp grilled vertical spit; *Sis Kebab* as Skewered lamb; *Adana Kebab* as Spicy ground mince, and *Bursa Kebab*, somewhat unhelpfully, as Bursa Kebab. *Koristik izgara* becomes Grilled mixed. *Firinda Kuzusallı Pide* with chopped meat, while *Pirzola* presents itself to the English eye as Cullied. The item which perplexes me most, however, is *Kofak Tatli*, which is translated as Canned Squash.

One Harley Street patient at least is laughing all the way to the consultant. The lift indicator at the practice of cardiologist Richard Sutton, he tells me, is marked floor one, two, three and by-pass.

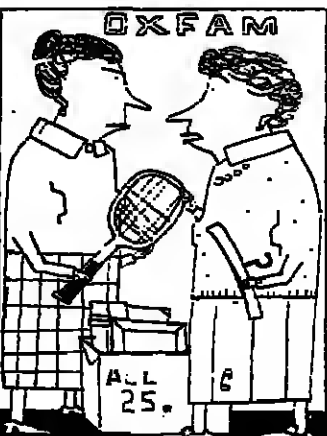
Going for broke

After merger-mania I can reveal that the latest craze to sweep the City is burger-mania: £400 is currently riding on a wager between Eurobond dealers trying to be the first in the Square Mile to eat six Big Mac hamburgers in 40 minutes. During the last contest one young City man organized a complex financial arrangement to guard against loss, if the task proved too much. Having munched his way through the required number of burgers, he was immediately confronted by his underwriters who demanded all the winnings.

Long hop

A prompt response to my request for a better form of words than *Hisden's "29 not out"* to describe the innings of Andrew Ducat, who died at the crash of a Lord's fixture in 1942. A Beconsfield reader offers "Dead bat", "Bailed out", and "Deep and wide". From Exeter comes the proposal "Retired inert". I have also heard from a Bedfordshire eye-witness who was a schoolboy at the time and was much distressed by his hero's death. His choice: "Retired, called up".

BARRY FANTONI



"There must be something we could do with 20 million slightly used T-shirts"

Persuasion

Despairing of students returning books by the end of term. Cambridge University's Archaeology and Anthropology library hit on a novel incentive. Assistant librarian Aidan Baker wrote to borrowers: "I intend to donate 1p to Conservative Party funds for every overdue notice I send out... Please help me to keep the sum as low as possible by returning all loans on time." With more than 200 borrowers, he ended up sending 86p to Central Office. "It's been suggested that at the end of this term we threaten to send cash to Militant," he told me.

PHS

Homeless over a barrel

by Bruce Douglas-Mann

The 1977 Housing (Homeless Persons) Act was passed, with all-party support, because Parliament recognized that the homeless were in acute social need. Local authorities were given a new legal duty: to house those in "priority need" — principally the old, the sick, those with young families — who lacked accommodation.

Parliament was conscious of a danger. The duty it laid on local authorities might be used by people, seeking transfers from highrise blocks and other unpopular accommodation to something better, to jump the queue.

Parliament did not, therefore, include a definition of what constituted "accommodation" in the legislation. It seemed obvious that a family whose only shelter was not large enough to accommodate its members, or which did not include basic amenities for cooking, washing or eating, did not have accommodation within the meaning of the Act. It was therefore entitled to its protection.

For years this view was supported by the courts. In a case brought against Wyre Borough Council in 1982 all three judges in the Court of Appeal agreed that accommodation must be appro-

priate to the needs of the family.

But in the case of Puhlhofer v. Hillingdon Borough Council, decided earlier this year, the House of Lords overruled both the Court of Appeal and common sense. When a council decides whether a person or family with a place, of sorts, to sleep in, is homeless for the purposes of the Act, it turns out there are no rules. The only guidance offered by the Lords to those local authorities which want to fulfil their minimum legal obligation was that "it would be a misuse of language to describe Diogenes as having occupied accommodation within the meaning of the Act".

Diogenes lived in a barrel. The accommodation with which the case was concerned was, admittedly, better than that; but for Britain in 1986 (and without a Mediterranean climate) not all that better.

The case concerned a husband and wife who, with two young children, occupied a single room containing a double and a single bed, baby's cradle, dressing table, pram and sterilizing unit. The room was in a guest house which had no cooking facilities; its three bathrooms were shared by 36 people. All meals except breakfast had to be

obtained out; all washing had to be done in a launderette. This, the House of Lords concluded, was "accommodation" for a family with an income of £78 per week. The Homeless Persons Act, it decided, imposed no duty on Hillingdon Council to find them something better suited to their needs.

This was clearly a perversion of Parliament's intention and gives scope to all local authorities who wish to evade their responsibilities.

This government has often taken rapid legislative action to assert its authority when the courts have declared its actions illegal. That is its constitutional right; Parliament, even when many of us think it is wrong, must rule.

The Homeless Persons Act, however, was passed because all parties in Parliament recognized the need for it. The courts have now largely destroyed it. Will the government reassert the authority of Parliament? If not, will Parliament itself support a Private Members Bill to do so?

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The author is a member of the board of Shelter and Alliance prospective parliamentary candidate for Mitcham & Morden. He was Labour MP for Mitcham & Morden, 1974-82.

Nicholas Bethell on the 'last chance' option that Pretoria spurns

All South Africa waits for Nelson Mandela. He is the stuff of which myths are made. Blacks rever him as the messiah who will deliver them from humiliation. Whites cringe from him as from the avenging angel who one day will chastise them for their sins. It needs a sharp wrench of the mind's eye for any South African to see him as anything else.

Yet there are some now who perceive a third role for Mandela: that of statesman and diplomat, the only man who could perhaps reconcile South Africa's communities and avoid civil war. The idea is based on what he has said these past 18 months in Brigadier F.C. Munro's office in Pollsmoor prison, Cape Town, to the few outsiders who have been allowed to discuss politics with him. These conversations reveal a distinction between Mandela's own views and the fiery rhetoric of most other leaders of the African National Congress.

The ANC's present position is that it will negotiate with the government only about the immediate transfer of power to the black majority, the alternative being full-scale civil war. The ANC president, Oliver Tambo, told MPs in London last October that "many will die, perhaps many thousands". Last September, according to Radio Lusaka, he ruled out a gradual transfer of power and predicted a bloodbath.

Mandela speaks far more gently. In January he told an American lawyer, Samuel Dash: "Unlike white people anywhere else in Africa, whites in South Africa belong here. This is their home; we want them to live here with us and share power with us." After majority rule, he added, he would not press for an uncontrolled movement of blacks into Johannesburg and other big cities. Integration in living areas would come after an expansion of job opportunities for blacks and "with dignity".

This idea of black-white power-sharing is hardly consistent with the ANC's policy of one man, one vote, in a unitary state brought about by "the flames of revolution". It seems closer to the plan proposed by the Progressive Federal Party (the main parliamentary opposition) and by Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha Movement: a national convention of the races that will draw up a federal constitution for protection of the minorities. It was precisely this national convention, one recalls, that was the ANC's original demand in March 1961, just before the armed struggle began and Mandela was arrested.

The attitude towards Chief Buthelezi is another important distinction. The ANC portrays the Zulu leader as little better than a quisling. Last September its Freedom Radio in Addis Ababa called him the "bantustan puppet" who "served the objectives and interests of the Botswana regime". Mandela thinks differently. On May 5 he told Mrs Helen Suzman and her PFP colleague Tiaan van der Merwe that all groups across the political spectrum, including Buthelezi's Inkatha, should be



Nelson Mandela has declared that violence should be restricted to "hard targets". He regretted the ANC bomb that killed 13 people in Pretoria in 1983, calling it a tragic accident.



The author is a member of the board of Shelter and Alliance prospective parliamentary candidate for Mitcham & Morden. He was Labour MP for Mitcham & Morden, 1974-82.

Give Mandela the chance to bring peace

involved in negotiations for a new South Africa.

The two black leaders exchanged correspondence and seemed on good terms. In spite of his quarrel with the ANC, Chief Buthelezi has persistently called for Mandela's unconditional release; six months ago he interviewed directly with President Botha when there were worries about Mandela's health.

Mandela's views on the armed struggle bear equally careful examination. In early 1983 he said: "We are forced to continue, though within certain limits. We go for hard targets only — military installations and the symbols of apartheid. Civilians must not be touched. This is why I deeply regret what happened in Pretoria on May 23, 1983. A bomb went off and more than a dozen civilians were killed. Something must have gone wrong with the timing. It was a tragic accident... We aim for buildings and property. It may be that someone gets killed in the fight, in the heat of battle, but we do not believe in assassination. I would justify this only in the case of an informer who was a danger to our lives."

This is not what appears in the ANC's statements, or for that matter in Mrs Winnie Mandela's speeches. Last August 5, Freedom Radio announced that "the whole country must go up in flames". A month later it added: "We have got to take the battle right into the whites' homes, into their kitchens and bedrooms. Police and soldiers must be killed even when they are in their homes."

The most important nuance is over the truce which the Commonwealth "eminent persons" have been trying to negotiate these past months. The

idea was, I think, first suggested by Mandela himself. In January 1983 he said: "The armed struggle was forced on us by the government. And if they want us to give it up now, the ball is in their court. They must legalize us, treat us like a political party and negotiate with us... Of course, if there were to be talks along these lines, we in the ANC would declare a truce."

Recently he has repeated this proposal, both to the Commonwealth group and to Mrs Suzman, his only added condition being the release of all political prisoners.

Would the ANC accept such an offer? We do not know what has happened behind the scenes, but from what its leaders said in London last October the answer seems doubtful.

The ANC information director, Thabo Mbeki, said then that it was neither essential nor normal for a truce to be declared in a liberation struggle simply because negotiations had begun. This had not been the case in Vietnam or Rhodesia. If there were to be a truce, both sides would have to end their violence. And it was hard to see how the government could do so while the apartheid system remained in force.

So why does Mandela put forward these, in ANC terms, eccentric views? Obviously not through fear of reprisal or hope of favour from the government. I can only imagine that he has made a personal decision, bearing in mind his own unique status and predicament, to advance a realistic plan for the removal of apartheid, one that South Africans as a whole might conceivably accept, rather than the maximalist demands of the Lusaka exiles, which remain the ANC's official negotiating

position. Such a tactic he would not see as inconsistent with his position as the ANC's leader.

Pretoria does not make it easy for him to build up any such constructive role. His treatment today is good in normal prison terms, but quite inadequate for someone who, as the government makes plain, is detained for reasons of public policy rather than of punishment or rehabilitation. He is still kept virtually incommunicado and his letters are censored. I remember one that looked as if it had been attacked by moths, another as if it had been through a shredder. One letter that he wrote to me at the end of last year has still not arrived. Friends apply to send him books and other small presents that would teach him about life outside, but permission is usually refused.

These aspects of his treatment, it seems, are handled by the security authorities, not the minister responsible for prisons. And the former have no interest in preparing him for life, let alone leadership, in the outside world. Instead they do their utmost to associate him with the worst violence in the townships. Last August he was tricked into receiving two journalists from the Rev Sun Myung Moon's *Washington Times*, who described him as "the South African terrorist and revolutionary".

In a BBC programme on May 6, the deputy information minister, Louis Nel, used Mandela's remarks about the armed struggle quoted above to argue that he remained committed to violence and should therefore stay in jail.

Mrs Suzman sees him as "our last hope". Tiaan van der Merwe, a "man who must inevitably play an enormous role in creating a new South Africa", Warren Hastings might have said that, when one considers what he has endured, one is amazed by Mandela's moderation. But the government, instead of embracing him as a chance for peace, keeps him isolated, so making ever more likely the bloodbath that his less statesmanlike friends foresee.

Lord Bethell is Conservative MEP for London North-west. He visited Mandela in prison in January last year.

Sabre rattlers who leave Charlie chortling

Mocoron, Honduras Most people would say that Mocoron was just about the end of the earth, but not Charlie Sang. There are strange things happening here which tell a seasoned old entrepreneur like Charlie that he could soon be on to something really big.

When he washed up in Mocoron in 1982 as a refugee from Nicaragua with only 300 lempiras in his pocket the place had not much going for it. A refugee-filled village of palm-thatched Indian huts on stilts in the middle of a pine-scattered tropical plain, a lonely battalion of the Honduran infantry and no roads to anywhere. The only way out, for those who could afford it, was an occasional flight to Tegucigalpa, or by dug-out canoe down the river to the coast.

Not much of a scene for one who had been top man in Puerto Cabezas, the sultry port a few days' walk away from Nicaragua's Atlantic coast. The son of a Chinese sailor and a Miskito Indian, Charlie had presided over what he calls the high life of Puerto Cabezas, first as its

bank manager, then in the mahogany business and finally running his own private bus service.

His greatest moment was in 1961 when the town was the launching pad for the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba; being its president, he gave the soldiers American officers the freedom of the Puerto Cabezas Social Club. But the life of a Yankee-loving capitalist was bound to change dramatically when the Marxist Sandinista regime came to power. Finding a store of dynamite in his house — kept, Charlie says, for fishing — they clapped him in jail for six months.

After his release his wife Eunice kept begging him to leave, but Charlie dug in. He finally made up his mind when the Sandinistas threatened him with another ten years in prison unless his son, Charlie, joined the army. But friends say the last straw was when they took away his four German shepherd dogs, saying they ate more meat in a week than many Puerto Cabezas did in a year.

Mocoron, Charlie soon realized, had more to it than met the eye. So he borrowed \$20,000 from a

friend, set up a hostelry and has never looked back.

Cold beer on his palm-thatched veranda was very welcome recently to the dozens of American army engineers and soldiers arriving on the huge military airstrip pointing towards the Nicaraguan border 15 miles away. His tasty Chinese dishes make a pleasant change for the brut of tough American Green Berets training Honduran soldiers in the latest jungle warfare skills.

A couple of clean, simple rooms at \$3 a night are handy for visitors like American aid workers building roads through the area — for economic development, not strategic purposes, they quickly tell you — and watchtowers to guard against forest fires, which only by coincidence happen to look over the Nicaraguan border.

Every day Charlie has a squad of coffee-caked Miskito girls baking bread, cakes and biscuits in the wood-fired ovens for the American and Honduran soldiers. They will be even busier soon when thousands of troops arrive for the huge joint American-

Honduran manoeuvres codenamed Cabana 86.

His two green parrots amuse the United Nations refugee people and other international officials, and there are the hundreds of refugees from the Sandinistas, thirsty for Coca Cola, Sprite and beer. He also acts as local agent for the Honduran domestic airline.

More foreign money is being poured into the area than ever before, and a lot of it is rubbing off on Charlie. He now employs 11 people, has another German shepherd dog and his house on stilts, with his green and white painted banisters, is by far the smartest in Mocoron. He has already paid back more than half his loan.

"I live better now than I ever did before," he said, "I never want to move again. This is a most cosmopolitan place."

The Nicaraguans are convinced the Americans are preparing to invade. The Americans swear they are simply helping the Hondurans to withstand aggression. If the balloon does go up, Mocoron will be a hotspot, but Charlie will not complain.

Patricia Clough

Anne Sofer

Keep quiet at the top there

As he settles into his new job as Education Secretary, Kenneth Baker should have the courage and magnanimity to stay his hand. He has a breezy way of making everyone feel comfortable. He should use it for all its worth for the next few months and not do much else, at least in public.

It will of course be very difficult. The press will be badgering him to make major policy statements; Conservative backbenchers will be pressing their nostrums on him; the advocates of Crown schools and educational credit schemes (the reclassified vouchers) will be trying to get their papers on to Cabinet agendas. And — most powerful of all — Mrs Thatcher will demand something punchy to put in the election manifesto.

We Want An Initiative, they will all cry. And that is what Baker must resist. Another initiative would assuredly be education's coup de grace. The secondary schools are already drowning in an alphabet soup of initiatives: GCSE, TVEI, CPVE, A/S, TRIST, to name a few.

And these are only what they have coming at them from central government. There are plenty of local authority initiatives as well; and with several councils having changed hands, the arrival of keen new education committee chairmen will mean even more.

But surely Baker must do something about the terrible mess education is in, somebody will say. Certainly he has to see that people stop regarding education as being in a mess. Three things have to happen: more resources will have to be found from the Treasury, the teachers' pay dispute will have to be settled on terms that ordinary teachers are relatively happy with, and parents must again see schools as busy, happy, effective places.

The first of these is probably happening under electoral pressure in any case, and Baker will presumably be busy himself behind the scenes to make sure it does. There has already been some "give" on higher education.

The second is in the hands of Acs, the co-ordination service, but the chances of the talks reaching a consensus will be very much brighter if Baker is seen emerging from Cabinet meetings looking like the cat that has been given the cream: an expression which fortunately suits his physiognomy.

The third cannot happen at all without the second. All of this is quiet, low-profile work: no big policy speeches, no pyrotechnics. If the dispute is settled and the schools return to normal, the teachers will have plenty to be getting on with. All those acronyms mean new courses, even radically different teaching methods. Many teachers will desperately want to be left alone to get on with it; there is a huge peot-up desire to plan and collaborate and create. Baker will be well advised to play down the government's role in these initiatives. To push in

and take the credit for what is going well will raise hackles. Teachers' morale will rise if teachers get the credit.

Indeed it would be very clever of Baker to orchestrate a campaign publicizing teaching successes: television programmes about schools that have improved their image, a breakthrough in the teaching of maths, a national school choir contest... People are getting bored with educational doom and gloom.

None of this should imply that there is nothing wrong with the education system that money cannot put right. That has never been true. But the mistake the Conservatives have made is to throw all the blame on the teachers and cast themselves in the role of scourge and saviour.

Teachers themselves know perfectly well there are serious failings in the system. Whenever they are polled they are astonishingly frank about their own and their colleagues' performance. But they are extraordinarily sensitive about being pilloried as a group, and no Education Secretary will be allowed to get away with it.

Indeed I doubt whether Baker will be allowed to get away with anything at all. That faction within the Labour Party and the teachers' unions that wants to keep educational discontent simmering until the next election will be eager to pounce on any new idea and discredit it.

None of this is of course the advice I would offer to an incoming Education Secretary of a different political persuasion. Coming in on a new electoral platform, with promises of expansion, exciting new vistas — that is an entirely different proposition.

I am assuming that Baker will not be able to perform a complete transformation of Conservative policy. He is not magician enough, one assumes, to reawaken Mrs Thatcher's enthusiasm for oratory education, or persuade the Cabinet to launch a major expansion of higher education.

So the best he can hope for is not very much. It is that in one or two years' time, when the election arrives, the political journalists, propping up a bar in Westminster, will say to each other, "Funny how we all thought education was going to be the big issue this time; somehow it seems to have taken a back seat. Mind you, Baker hasn't made much of a mark..."

That is why I used the word "magnanimity" at the beginning of this article. The strategy I have outlined is the one that I believe will do the Conservative Party the least electoral damage: it is the one that, given the political constraints, would certainly be best for the education service. But I am not sure it does much for Baker himself. And since he is an able and ambitious politician, tipped for the highest office, he may have different ideas.

The author is a member of the SDP national committee.

moreover... Miles Kington

I have pulled the first cracker

Earlier this month I was involved in an amazingly innovative social experiment. I was a guest at the annual dinner of an organization called Books For Students, and although getting young people to read books is a daring social experiment in itself, the really adventurous part of the evening lay in the fact that this, on May 8, was its Christmas dinner.

It had come about quite by accident. Books For Students had always had a combined sales conference and party at the end of the year, so naturally enough it had been a Christmas party with crackers and plum duff. Recently the organization was taken over by W.H. Smith, whose year ends in late spring. So Books For Students had to move its annual party.

With that innate conservatism which caused the British Empire to dress for dinner no matter how tropical the circumstances, Books For Students decided that its party could still be Christmasy. So on May 8, I found myself putting on a paper hat, pulling crackers, exchanging terrible riddles and throwing streamers at strangers. Everyone had a whale of a time. I only wish I had been able to stay for the party.

One reason that Christmas seemed better to me in May is that it was totally free of all the usual unpleasant factors — buying presents, forgetting to buy a tree, being nice to relations, and so on. There were no children being sick with greed, or grown-ups grey with effort. It was just an undiluted Christmas dinner on a warm spring evening, and an example of one of the most creative and most ignored social laws: If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing out of season.

The first man I ever came across with fruitful examples of this law was John Betjeman, who swore that the familiar pattern of people who lived in London during the weekends was quite idiotic. The countryside was overcrowded on Saturdays and Sundays, he especially the City, was empty; far better to stay in the country for the week and come up to London at the weekends, which is exactly what he did. He also once spent a summer in Leeds while everyone there was away in Majorca, and

said it was about the best summer holiday he had ever had.

Perhaps there's another social law involved here, allied but different: Always make sure the rush hour is going in the opposite direction.

Using these two laws in tandem, it should be possible to give a new flavour to our lives. For instance, it is always better to go on holiday out of season, but that is only the half of it. It is also better to go on holiday to places which are considered risky or out of fashion. If I were an American, now is the time I would come to Europe. As a Briton, I should be visiting Northern Ireland, the Basque part of Spain, India, or Nicaragua. Mark you, there was a feature in the *International Herald Tribune* on skiing holidays in Iran, which I think may be going a little far, but I applaud the spirit behind it.

Again, there is a tendency when choosing a holiday to avoid those spots which have been developed or spoiled, and to go for the undeveloped, undiscovered areas. Even better, why not go for the places which used to be developed and have now been forgotten? The towns of the great spa age. The seaside places like Deauville, Biarritz, and Le Touquet? The parts of the Scottish Highlands colonized by Queen Victoria?

The way you apply these laws depends very much on the state of your own life, but here are a few further hints: ● If you must celebrate New Year, make sure it is someone else's, the Chinese, preferably. ● To enjoy a big railway station or air terminal, go there when you're not travelling anywhere. I know a man who enjoys whole evenings at the National Theatre, and has never seen a single play there. ● Eat turkey any time except Christmas and have fireworks any time except November. ● Get most of your work done at lunchtime. ● Do your evening drinking at strange theatres, outside the intervals, while everyone else is in the auditorium. ● Wait till the book you want comes out in paperback, then buy the secondhand hardback, which is by now cheaper. ● Get yourself invited to the Books For Students Christmas dinner; better still, hold your own.

10p/15p



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

MRS THATCHER IN ISRAEL

Mrs Thatcher managed to upset both right-wing Israelis and left-wing Palestinians during her four-day visit to Jerusalem. In doing so, however, she made sure that Britain's voice was heard more clearly in the Middle East than has been the case for many years. If this country is to play a role in the peace process, it is important that this should be so. To that extent her visit - the first to be paid by a reigning British Prime Minister to the Holy Land - must be counted a significant success.

papers described as a swift rebuff for her proposals on the administration of Israel's occupied territories. The second was much more difficult. She went with sparse hopes and fewer expectations of succeeding where others had failed. She nonetheless managed to build new bridges between Britain and moderate members of the Arab community on the West Bank and in Gaza, both by her meeting with eight Palestinian representatives and by her vigorous support for free municipal elections in these territories.

is prepared to accept some Palestinian involvement, it remains opposed to the PLO as an organization involved in terrorism and dedicated to its own destruction. With Mr Shamir due to replace Mr Peres as prime minister in October, it is difficult to see Jerusalem becoming more flexible on this issue. But it is also realistic to recognize that the PLO itself remains the preferred option of many Palestinians - and has been able in the past to impose its will on those who would prefer other representation. That being so, the apparent way forward is for elections to produce a Palestinian leadership who have the confidence of the PLO without being part of it - which is easier to prescribe than to guarantee - and then for some third party to arrange matters so that Israel can sit down with them.

COMMITMENT IN BERLIN

As the Shadow Foreign Secretary tries yet again to trade Britain's nuclear deterrent for a Soviet promise to turn its warheads in the other direction, he - and others - would do well to contemplate the value of earlier Soviet promises. One of these relates to Berlin. It so happens that while Mr Healey has been in Moscow, the will of the Western powers to preserve the city's existing status has been subjected to one of its periodic tests. On Sunday, a number of Western diplomats were denied entry to West Berlin after refusing to show their passports. East Germany had introduced new regulations stipulating that diplomats were required to present passports, when previously diplomatic passes had sufficed.

lomatic status is not one of them. For diplomatic purposes, Berlin is undivided and diplomats posted to Berlin, East or West, are permitted to come and go between the two zones of diplomatic passes alone. If the Western powers were to cede to the Soviet and East German authorities the right to inspect diplomats' passports and therefore to decide who comes and who goes and when, the danger is that this would be interpreted as de facto recognition of East German jurisdiction over East Berlin and of the East-West Berlin divide as a national frontier - something Britain, France and the USA have pledged not to do. So too, under the Quadrilateral Agreement of 1971, has the Soviet Union.

ingly capitalized on its special relationship with the Federal Republic and the West to establish itself on the diplomatic scene. Suspension of that recognition would be as deep a disappointment to East Germany as the withdrawal of the Soviet bloc from the Los Angeles Olympics two years ago. The East German authorities could then be expected to put pressure on Moscow to have the regulations on diplomats' passports lifted. Now some will argue that more rigorous controls on the movement of diplomats were exactly what the West was asking for after the terrorist bombing of the West Berlin discotheque. To which the response must be that the system of diplomatic passes, if properly observed, should be quite adequate. On no account must the quest for better security be used by one side to insinuate long-term changes into the status of Berlin.

THE GREAT UGC FREEZE

The Government might rate its handling of the universities as a success story. Its plans for their spending have, more or less, been realized, unlike its plans in secondary education, agriculture, and defence. Academic numbers have been cut. There are even signs that the ambition of ministers to shift students into science and technology is being realized. Universities have been through their efficiency inspection at the hands of Sir Alex Jarrett: they are, at the least, as well run as the government departments which ordain such scrutinies. A new generation of vice-chancellors is in place. Provided the "bridging" money mentioned by Sir Keith Joseph is forthcoming, they signal that they will continue to cooperate in the shrinkage exercise. Perhaps they have no choice. The letter of intent sent out last week by the University Grants Committee should be read as part of the Government's rather barren achievement. The document represents, in part, a marriage of minds. On one side is an academic caste many of whose members are convinced that university expansion went too far. They are, understandably, anxious to protect bits of the system they prize, especially

laboratory research. On the other side are ministers who want to deliver their spending targets and are only too happy to have an academic body make judgements on their behalf using a vocabulary in which "excellence" and "standards" are key words. The UGC has cast itself as the manager of a system in decline. It has not thought it politic to speculate about what future awaits such institutions as City University (once seen as a leader in several sectors of applied science) or Aston University (with its courses for pan-European business managers) other than to insinuate that it is dim. In the UGC's world a university is defined by its unit costs (based on research); there are no visible calculations, or futures for universities as liberal arts colleges, or universities with a local catchment offering courses lower down the "standards" scale. Meanwhile the UGC advertises its selection of Warwick, York, Southampton and the other "winners" as a triumph of academic judgement. Yet the procedure is a bureaucratic one. Far a research council to make a grant to the head of an excellent department of physics is one

thing. It relies on peer review and it does not exclude other physics departments which might be capable of excellent work in the future. But the UGC agglomerates to itself a mountain of information, objective and anecdotal, and makes a once-for-all judgement. It freezes a pattern of academic activity and academic worth. Where is the ladder for the Stirlings and the Keelses to climb back to favour and fortune? And did academic politics at no point intrude? Or is the UGC, alone among bureaucratic institutions, insulated from callow considerations of personality and influence? Better by far to multiply sources of finance within higher education, so lessening the results of mistaken judgement and widening the opportunity for institutional rebirth. Beyond a core UGC grant, universities should for their own sake depend on many judges - students paying full-cost tuition fees, industrial and research council funds, charities, alumni, local authorities, consumers of university expertise within the education system: a variety of bodies, public and private, to support universities in the variety of their purposes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping the lid on nuclear secrets

From Mr David Lowry
In Parliament on May 13 Environment Secretary, Kenneth Baker, pledged an easing of the secrecy that has bedevilled civil nuclear energy matters. A day later, at the Foreign Affairs Council of the EEC, Mrs Lynda Chalker stated that the British Government abhorred secrecy on nuclear matters (report, May 15). A week earlier, during his visit to Sellafield on May 7, Energy Secretary Peter Walker pledged that henceforth it was his desire that the nuclear industry should not indulge in secrecy of any description. It is to be hoped that this commitment will be heeded. But perhaps I may be forgiven for expressing some initial scepticism, based on a history of secrecy that has surrounded nuclear power since its inception. From a long list may I mention the following. In January, 1984, the Friends of the Earth told the inspector at the Sizewell inquiry that they had been forced to obtain a report on the dangers of nuclear reactors, produced by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. The UKAEA refused to release the report on grounds of "commercial confidentiality". Similarly at the Sizewell inquiry in May, 1983, the Central Electricity Generating Board senior policy adviser, Mr John Baker, told CND that no plutonium from CEBG reactors had ever been applied to weapons use in Britain or elsewhere. He added, when pressed for clarification and substantiation by CND, "our knowledge is partial. That which we do know we may not necessarily share with you". Nearly three years on, in March this year, Lord Marshall, the CEBG chairman, admitted that plutonium from CEBG reactors had been transferred to the military stockpile, hence disowning

Lords warning on EEC treaty

From Mr Peter Horsfield, QC, and Mr Lucian Price, QC
Sir, The power of the United Kingdom Parliament will be weakened by the Single European Act. The Committee draw this important fact to the special attention of the House. Thus, in its first conclusion, the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities expresses the point we endeavoured to make in our letter of May 6 and conveniently answers the points raised by others in subsequent letters. The grounds of the committee's conclusion are set out fully in this week's report (The Single European Act and Parliamentary Scrutiny, published on May 20) and amply justify concern. In general they point to the incapability that the effect of the Single European Act will be to "increase... the areas subject to Community law rather than national law - at the expense of Member States". More particularly they draw attention to the formidable legislative powers of the Commission: The powers of the Commission in relation to the drafting of legislation are already significant and will become more so. The Commission is "master" of the text of any proposal for legislation... In addition the Commission determines which amendments put forward by the European Parliament... are submitted to the Council... and amendments not endorsed by the Commission require unanimity before they can be adopted. Fixed limits on the time during which the Member States can bargain about a re-examined proposal should also strengthen the Commission's position. In addition to its own powers the Commission can (as in practice it will) have delegated to it the powers of the Council. It is difficult to conceive how national parliamentary government can continue to exist in any real sense alongside so powerful a directive body. The diminution of the role of Parliament is matter for concern enough. Even more worrying is the want of frankness exhibited by ministers and other official spokesmen. We can only hope that, late in the day, the House of Lords committee's report will bring the important constitutional issues involved out into the open where they belong. Yours faithfully, PETER HORSFIELD, LEOLIN PRICE, 8 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, WC2, May 22.

Aids in London

From Dr Adam Lawrence
Sir, Your article on the health service in London (May 12) describes accurately the present position of strain in the hospitals and implies that the future is very serious. I agree, but I would like to draw the attention of Londoners to the growing health problem of Aids and its related diseases. This tragic epidemic makes ever-increasing demands on hospital and primary (community) care services alike. About 65 per cent of the 350 or so reported cases in the UK come from the London area and these numbers are doubling every 10 months. A study of a group of "at risk" population from an estimated 6,000 in the catchment area of one of the London teaching hospitals showed positive blood tests in 3 per cent of them in 1982. This had increased to 21 per cent in an equivalent group in 1985. London is faced with an increasing epidemic which will make

Business penalty

From Mr Dennis J. Fowle
Sir, Lord Young appears to be fighting a losing battle in trying to take real bureaucratic burdens off the backs of business. As he nibbles away at one end, Customs and Excise has imposed a massive load at the other and the Inland Revenue is now busily engaged in devising new enforcement powers. The new VAT penalties are just beginning to bite - and honest, small business people are really feeling the pain. In the first case before a VAT tribunal a lady running a small debt-collecting agency did not appreciate how her turnover was growing. When she realised she was above the VAT threshold she voluntarily went to customs, registered and collected all VAT which should have been paid. Then customs imposed a penalty of 495.30 per cent of the tax due for the period she should have been registered. In two years' time an interest charge will also be imposed. Is this the way to treat honest business people who collect VAT on behalf of the Government? There is no mitigation available - either to customs or the tribunal. Lord Grantham, in his presidential, said that if there had been criminal proceedings, full account could have been taken of the mitigating circumstances. Honest taxpayers will be discouraged from owing up - and will find ways to circumvent this draconian penalty. Yours faithfully, D. J. FOWLE, Managing Director, Tax File, 4 Valentin Place, SE1, May 12.

Musical excellence

From Mr James Gibb
Sir, In her letter of May 15 Miss Fanny Waterman demurred from Sir Ian Hunter's opinion (April 26) that the overall standard of our music colleges was "already high", citing her experience as a juror on international piano competitions in which British pianists, with their inadequate techniques, have fared badly. Perhaps a seat on an international competition is not the best vantage point from which to survey and pass judgement on the music colleges. If blame there be, is she laying it at the right door? The truth is that real artistic excellence is unattainable if the solo performer has not already acquired a thorough technical foundation long before the age at which a student normally enters a music college. Can a single great artist be named who has not developed the necessary technical skills at an early age? Indeed the most distinguished of Miss Waterman's own pupils, now enjoying successful artistic careers, have received such training at her hands when they were very young. Effective pursuit of excellence must begin at a very early stage. It is in the primary stages of musical education that much more reforming zeal should be directed. Whatever the merits or shortcomings of the music colleges they can only respond as best they can to the talent they receive. Yours faithfully, JAMES GIBB, Flat K, 10 Regent's Park Road, NW1.

Priest and people

From Mrs Anne Inman
Sir, In warning of the culture shock for Anglicans in the event of union between the sees of Rome and Canterbury, Jonathan Harfield (feature, May 17) seems not to take into account the possibility of change within the Roman Catholic Church. There is a growing awareness of the price that is being paid for the Catholic priest's "emotional detachment". An important function of the Ministry to Priests Programme, which had reached 11 dioceses in Britain by the end of last year, is to repair much emotional damage that has resulted from this detachment. One might hope that it will be possible for the ordained priest to lose his "almost mystical aura" so that people might begin to relate to him properly. Nor is the question of ordination of women to the priesthood confined to the Church of England. Edmund Hill, writing for the new series, "Introducing Catholic Theology" (Being Human, 1984, Geoffrey Chapman), says: Are there any doctrinal, theological, revealed reasons why women should not, and indeed cannot, be validly ordained? I confess I have never come across any. All the reasons that have been put forward have been based on the premises of the natural subordination and inferiority of women - which we have been at pains to see is by no means a premise of revelation. Yours faithfully, ANNE INMAN, 181 Knightsbridge, New Ash Green, Kent.

Open all hours

From Mrs M. E. Booth
Sir, "Open from 8.30 am - 6.30 pm all day." Urgent cases will be seen the same day, whether or not they have an appointment... 24-hour emergency service. 365 days a year. Ring at least once a day for an up-to-date progress report. Please feel free to discuss all aspects of your case as fully as you would like. New NHS hospital rules? Enlightened GP practice? No, just my excellent local vet. Yours faithfully, M. E. BOOTH, 12 Lillian Avenue, W3, May 20.

GCSE standards

From Mr D. G. Evans
Sir, It is nearly 20 years since this country embarked on the new internationally agreed system of technical units (SI units). Much of the country has in that time transferred fully or in part to litres, grammes, millimetres, Newtons, Celsius and so on. One can only be astonished, therefore, that the GCSE examiners now insist on setting questions which reintroduce "feet" and "pound" (lb) units. They have understandably concealed how these units would be sub-divided, whether decimally or in twelfths and sixteenths. We perhaps can imagine lb of peas, but what butcher can sell a piece of meat precisely cut to 5lb? It should perhaps be mentioned that Britain is one of the very few countries in the world which has bothered to implement the use of SI units. This has effectively made our present position internationally more remote than ever. Yours faithfully, D. G. EVANS, D. G. EVANS & Associates, 46 Layton's Lane, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, May 16.

Hang 'em all

From Mr F. J. Dupays
Sir, According to statistics supplied by the Royal Academy, out of 12,544 works submitted for inclusion in this year's summer exhibition, 2,834 were selected but not hung. Is it not extraordinary that those paintings which are hung stay on the wall for three months, having nearly all been sold within three days of the exhibition's opening? Could not one room, or at least part of one room, be reserved for paintings selected but not hung? These would not be catalogued, simply numbered and priced. As soon as a painting was bought it would be removed and replaced by another and the price altered if necessary. In this way more artists would be exhibited, more people would be able to buy paintings and the Academy would make more money. Yours faithfully, F. J. DUPAYS, Hunstrete House, Hunstrete, Chelwood, Near Bristol, Avon, May 18.

ON THIS DAY

MAY 28 1898
Since the 16th century Cuba had been colonized by Spain. In 1897 after a series of bloody wars between her and Cuban rebels, the USA offered to act as a mediator. The plan came to nothing, and in February 1898, the US battleship, Maine, was blown up in Havana harbour, compelling by public opinion, America declared war on Spain. It was short-lived. By the Treaty of Paris that year, Spain "relinquished" Cuba to the USA to be held in trust for the inhabitants. America's mandate ended in 1902 when Cuba was declared a republic. Our correspondent, Ross Poulney Bigelow.

USA TROOPS INVADE CUBA

(From the first account of the U.S. Transport Gussie.) OFF HAVANA, May 13. Yesterday morning, in broad daylight, we steamed up to the entrance of Havana and leisurely inspected Morro Castle, the light-house, and half-a-dozen spires of her many handsome churches. Our steamer is an old-fashioned passenger boat with paddle-wheels, beamy and steady, but very slow, perhaps nine knots. We are, of course, unarmoured. At our bow is a Gatling, and our one hundred and thirty crew are United States infantry are reliable. This little outfit proposed to itself nothing less than the invasion of Cuban soil and the engagement of any troops that might accidentally be there in ambush. We steamed slowly along the shore until we passed beneath a long suspension bridge that dominates the scene. This is a place called Mariel, and it is here that we proposed landing the first instalment of our contraband stuff - namely, three horses, three Cuban patriots, and some baggage belonging to them. We steamed along to the mouth of Cuban Bay, about 30 miles west of Havana, where we saw no sign of shipping, although our Cuban friends tried to persuade us that several Spanish torpedo-boats lay there in ambush. Indeed our Cuban allies, both pilots and patriots, were inclined to be alarmists, for at every move we made there was some discouraging advice offered by them. We had not been able to land the Cuban patriots at Mariel because of a handful of troops on the look out. Here, however, we were within one mile of a garrison stated to be 2,000 men. In broad daylight, at 20 minutes past 2 in the afternoon, we sent a boat ashore containing our three Cubans. For the previous half-hour we had been under desultory fire from the Spanish troops, who followed us at a safe distance along the beach, occasionally running ahead into a safe ambush for a pop at our paddle-boxes. But none of these warnings troubled Captain Dorst in the slightest degree. He was counting upon gross incapacity in the ranks of the enemy, and he was destined to be anything but disappointed. After having given to the enemy the most complete possible information as to our intentions and destinations, we selected as the place of debarkation an open beach, accessible only after a difficult struggle with the breakers, on a string of reefs stretching about fifty yards from the beach for several miles. The woods here as elsewhere grew close to the water's edge, and had there been ten thousand men there in ambush we on the ships should not have known it. With a contemptuous regularity laid down for such cases by the most respectable text-books, our men went ashore about the manner of holiday people in search of a picnic ground. After the three Cubans had been several minutes alone on the beach occupied in peering about amongst the thick bushes, two boatloads managed to reach the line of surf, and there they stuck until the sea jumped out and, floundering in the breakers, managed to struggle ashore. At that moment half-a-dozen enterprising Spaniards could have had every one of them at their mercy, for no one could have saved them in this predicament. However, a special providence appeared to watch over this expedition, and the first 20 or 30 men, dipping with salt water, but sound as to rifle and cartridge belts, finally reached the beach and gave three lusty cheers. Every man in our party felt the historic importance of this moment.

Answering back

From Mrs Morar Lucas
Sir, My grandfather, born in the 1850s, had firm views on everything, including "thank you" letters. He gave a wedding present and received no acknowledgement. In due course the happy couple were abashed to receive from him a package containing paper, string and stamps, together with a note requesting the return of the gift, as he "assumed from their silence that they did not want it". Yours faithfully, MORAR LUCAS, Postmasters' Hall, Merton Street, Oxford, May 21.

Answering back

From Mrs E. A. Hunt
Sir, I write to assure Mrs Hewitt (May 21) that the thank-you letter is not yet dead. In our youth our family had a rich, and generous, uncle. He deleted any of his relations from his present-giving list if the thank-you letter was not instantly forthcoming. This dreadful fate instilled a habit that has now been carried on to the third generation, though Boxing Day is no longer the purgatory that it was. Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH HUNT, The Post Office Stores, Cradley, Malvern, Worcestershire, May 21.

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COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 27: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance...

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 27: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, visited the Western District of the Duchy today...

Birthdays today
Sir Owen Aisher, 86; Mr Albert Booth, 58; Miss Faith Brown, 39; Sir Edward du Cann, MP, 62...

Abbots Bromley
A Celebratory Luncheon will be held at Abbots Bromley (School of St Mary and St Anne) on Saturday, September 6, 1986...

Sir Peter Pears
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Peter Pears will be held in Westminster Abbey...

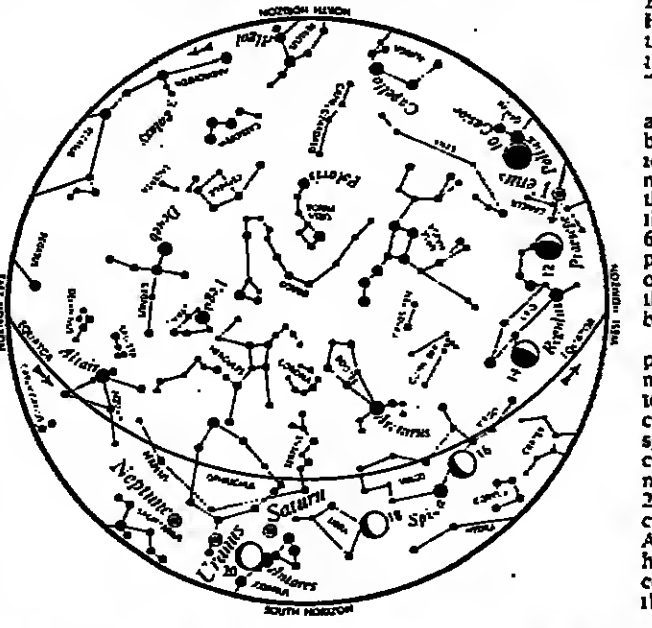
Appointments
Latest appointments include: The following to be members of the group which will advise Mr Norman...

University news
Kent
Mr Roy Goodman, B.Mus., has been appointed director of music at the university from October 1...

The night sky in June

By Our Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury will reach greatest elongation (25 deg) as an evening star on the 25th, when it will set an hour and a half after the Sun...



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23.00 hr at the beginning, 23.00 hr in the middle, and 23.00 hr at the end of the month...

15th, and the end of the arrow on the 30th. By the 15th rotation will have tilted the map for 22h and the planets will have set by 23h.

Halley's Comet has come and gone to the general public in the latitude of the United Kingdom it was a non-event, but as readers will have gathered from press and television its appearance yielded scientific information of great value...

Latest wills
The Rev Harry Clement Williams, of Canterbury, Kent, the oldest priest in the Church of England, who died aged 106, left an estate valued at £48,401 net.

OBITUARY LORD WILLOUGHBY DE BROKE

Lifelong devotion to the Turf

A love of flying and a love of horses, but especially horses, were among the dominating interests in the life of Lord Willoughby de Broke, MC, AFC, who died on May 25, at the age of 90.



Lord Willoughby's love of horses never faded during his life. As an owner, breeder and local steward he became a much respected figure on the racecourse...

John Henry Mayo Verney was born on May 21, 1896, and succeeded his father, the 19th baron, in 1923. His lifelong affection for horses began with his first ride at the age of 14 on a full size hunter with the Warwickshire Hounds...

He was an enthusiastic pilot who flew from his own airfield at Kington. He took part in air rallies and races and won the Society of British Aircraft Constructors' Cup.

With a second world war looming, he was given command of No 605 (County of Warwick) AAF Squadron in 1936. He spent the next three years training part-time air men, leaving in 1939 at the age of 44, disappointed that he was considered too old to be a fighter pilot.

He settled finally in London and began to write his first series of books on Germany which were to culminate in his moving post-war autobiography 'Farwell to Germany', giving an account of his desire for and acceptance of British nationality. For the moment, he remained a German.

He was arrested and spent the war in an internment camp on the Isle of Man. It was during his enforced stay that he began to acquire his excellent command of English.

After study in several German universities, he started his varied career by becoming, in the 1920s, film correspondent and screen writer in Berlin and later, for two years, in Hollywood.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and In Memoriam

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM
£4 a line + 15% VAT (minimum 3 lines)
Announcements, authenticated by this name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent via...

SHALES On May 23rd at Queen Anne's Chapel, London, the Rev. Canon John Thorneley and Mrs. Thorneley...

BLACKBURN On 22nd May, in the Home Valley Memorial Hospital at a long illness, Mrs. Annie...

MOORE On 23rd May, 1986, tragically at the age of 28 years, Frederick William, son of Mrs. Fred...

SMITH On 25th May, 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Mary...

SMITH On 25th May, 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Mary...

SMITH On 25th May, 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Mary...

SMITH On 25th May, 1986, peacefully at home, Susan Mary...

MARRIAGES
MILTON-HEWLETT-CARPENTER on May 24th, at St. Mary's Church, Trepoyn, Jonathan, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. John Milton...

DEATHS
ABBOTT on Saturday, 24th May 1986 peacefully at a Salcombe Nursing Home, Doris Mary aged 81 years...

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THE ARTS

Television

Having had a foretaste of David Cohen's documentary 'Firepoint '86: Victims' (Central) on Monday night's Open The Box, the viewer may have been more than usually alert to the possibility of artificial manipulation in these interviews with the victims of crime. How many takes were needed to elicit tears from the widow of a ricket collector wantonly killed by a metal spike through the head? Given the harrowing circumstances of the case, the most likely answer would be "one".

Perhaps the most useful function of programmes such as Open The Box is to remind us that the most intimate moments between subject and interviewer take place in the presence of five or six silent and unseen technicians. In agreeing to ignore this submerged bulk of the television iceberg the interviewee colludes in the artifice of programme making: with "personalities" it could not be otherwise with "real people" such as the unremarkable victims seen here and in every "fly on the wall" documentary, interviewees wily-silly act themselves for the camera.

Martin Cropper



An androgynous Cleopatra (Vanessa Redgrave) plays games with a hypnotized Antony (Timothy Dalton)

Theatre

Grandeur in a mocking grimace

Antony and Cleopatra Haymarket

One thing is clear from the first of Theatr Cwydd's two Haymarket productions: the directors (Toby Robertson and Christopher Selbie) are aiming to do more than put a frame around Vanessa Redgrave.

The surrounding company presents an interesting mix of old National Theatre stalwarts, robust troopers of the kind who used to sustain Mr Robertson's Prospect Shows, and wild outsiders to the classical stage. Where else would you find Sylvester McCoy playing a pipsqueak Pompey, and winding up drunk in Antony's arms at the end of the galley scene? It may sound

silly but it makes Shakespeare's point that this Pompey is a clown compared with his father.

More seriously, there is a gravely ineffectual Lepidus from Gerald James, along the lines of a town clerk catapulted into central government; and there is a fiery, sardonic Enobarbus from Robert O'Mahoney, who also benefits from some of the best directing in the show.

Means have been found to sharpen most of his asides into partnership exchanges, and to project his line of thought when he is not speaking. For instance, when Antony shuts him up during the first Roman conference, he responds with mute horror to the political marriage plan; and when he embarks on his description of Cleopatra, it is not an aria but an angry rebuke to the two

Roman idiots who proposed the idea of marrying Antony to Octavia in the first place.

There are other fresh and illuminating points; but they fail to coalesce into a coherent view of the play, much less to overcome its notorious staging problems.

Simon Higlett's set consists of a gutted Roman mansion with an upper window ledge put to various inventive uses before it comes into its own as the monument. What it fails to do is to supply the vital division between the two worlds of Rome and Egypt.

There are some powerful images - from the first sight of Cleopatra enticing her jack-in-the-box lover out of a treasure chest, to a spectacle of his bleeding body being winched aloft by a single arm.

Unfortunately these are isolated images, moments of

visual excitement that come and go in the midst of routine semi-circular groupings and some of the most deliberately attenuated delivery I can recall (the production lasts upwards of 3½ hours). Nor has Mr Robertson found any means of dealing with the battle scenes: all we get is smoke, red light and yet another figure gloomily wandering out of the murk to describe the latest disaster.

When she last played Cleopatra (1973) Miss Redgrave presented a bullying dilettante playing at soldiers in a white trowsersuit.

This time she comes on with cropped hair in a long white gown; an androgynously anonymous figure emphasizing all the marks of age.

Her opening scenes are at once hilarious and alarming: baring her teeth in a mocking

grimace as she goes into games of rough and tumble and outrageous mimicry with Antony before being spanked and carried off piggy back.

What the opening establishes is that Timothy Dalton is in thrall to a creature who will certainly bring about his downfall; and that nothing exists for Cleopatra beyond the desires of the moment.

At every chance she gets, Redgrave pushes home her vanity, arrogance, and duplicity. The reward of this approach is that, against all the odds, she achieves tragic grandeur on her own terms; facing death as yet another game, but one worth her time.

Irving Wardle

Previews of Theatr Cwydd's production of The Taming of the Shrew from June 4.

Interview

Bernard Mac Lavery (right) has written the script of Lamb, a film based on his first novel, which opens in London next week. He talks to Paul Nathanson



In Cal, Bernard Mac Lavery's much-acclaimed novel, a sense of redemption tempered the ultimate pathos. But in Lamb, the film which he has written based on his first novel and which opens in London next week, there is no such relief. Mac Lavery quietly agrees that it is a story of failure and despair.

Mac Lavery himself, pulling up to his elbows, revealing white, boyish arms, is hardly melancholic. Renowned for his impish humour, he has as much trouble suppressing his Belfast bonhomie as keeping his battered pipe alight.

Lamb tells of a priest, Michael Lamb, who runs away with a boy of twelve from the burling where he teaches. The boy, Owen, grabs physical freedom, while Lamb escapes his spiritual father, Father Benedict, a sadistic reactionary, who boasts "We teach them a little God and a lot of fear", and "Freedom is an affliction".

"Lamb is partly a metaphor for the situation in Northern Ireland", says Mac Lavery. "The strength of feeling that comes out of Lamb is in some way the strength of feeling I've had about Northern Ireland, the parallel being how misdirected love results in tragedy.

"Normally writing is the most awful drudge", Mac Lavery explains, "but here one idea led to another and I wrote it very, very quickly in about three months. I'm a Mac Lavery, who once described film writing as reducing paragraphs of prose into grunts, pared the prose so savagely that the story's very structure almost collapsed, and director Colin Gregg had to steer him back to the source material and re-introduce the book into the film.

There was also a hiccup over the title, which producer Neil Zeiger wanted to change. Mac Lavery was equally adamant it should stay and resorted to his spiky, mischievous humour to preserve it, suggesting inane alternatives like The Disillusioned Celibate.

Mac Lavery, 43, lean and less jowly than photos suggest, holds the sanctity of his prose in rather less awe and went ahead with the screenplay for three reasons. It was, he says, interesting, lucrative and also a way of protecting the book.

Bernard Mac Lavery has a reputation for being philosophical and unflinching while working on films: a convivial, witty man, he has a quiet confidence, oiled by an easy eloquence and frequent laughter - both at himself and the world around him. It is as

though a man whose stories are often so bleak with the recurring themes of conflict and manour, cannot bear to live with his literary self.

"In writing, yes, I tend to be pessimistic, but in myself I think I'm a fair optimist", he observes. "I don't know why that should be, except that coming from Northern Ireland, if you're going to reflect in any way the situation there, you can't write something which would end with head-clinging jollity."

Son of a commercial artist, Mac Lavery caused an immediate stir on entering the world of films at the age of five. Just William was playing in Belfast and the child Bernard was so terrified that he was led from the auditorium in a state of screaming hysteria.

His literary career proved less melodramatic and he did not start writing until he was 19. At the time he was a lab technician in the Anatomy Department at Queen's University, Belfast. Having been pushed into science at school, inspired by D. H. Lawrence and Kafka, he spent 10 years "writing badly". Still today he wrestles with writing. "I present he is going through a bad patch", agonizing over the very nature of his prose. More than that he will not say: "I don't want to engage in a discussion of it. If I could, I would know what was wrong."

After his apprenticeship he published his first book of short stories, Secrets, in 1977 and his first novel, Lamb, in 1980, which won critical acclaim as well as a Scottish Arts Council Book Award. Meanwhile, he had abandoned science to do an English degree and become a teacher, taking up his first post in Edinburgh before moving to the Isle of Ilay. Now with his wife Madeleine - his most influential critic - and four children he lives in Glasgow.

A present Mac Lavery, who sees himself primarily as writer of fiction, is completing a third book of short stories and also working on a third film script, called Perigot. For the first time the script will not be based on one of his books but on a true story about an Italian in Paris in 1911.

"It's a kind of smile", he says, "a comedy which is very different to anything I've ever written before. Perhaps it's partly an attempt to shake off the darkness in my work. And people have been telling me not to understate comedy. I made a mental Somerset to transfer an Italian in Paris to an Irishman in Britain. If you switch off your tape recorder, I'll tell you what it's all about."

Concert

CBSO/Rattle Wells Cathedral

Even by the extraordinary standards of Simon Rattle's recent achievements, this was something special, a performance of Messiaen's Turanghala Symphony within the visually and acoustically welcoming ambience of a great cathedral, and with the composer there to be one hopes, thunderstruck with the rest of us.

It is hard to imagine how the piece could be better done. Rattle has the energy and the trust in the score (as well as, no less important, the trust of his players) to make possible a confident, positive sounding of its extremes of tempo. The slow music was not sluggish but very carefully and exactly decelerated to suggest suspended time, and the wild D flat dance of cosmic joy was even a little faster than marked, yet managed by the large orchestra with quite astonishing precision.

In such feats Mr Rattle and his Birmingham orchestra were no doubt building on

their experience together, in their perfectly synchronized changes of speed and volume. Mr Rattle is a bit freer with his rallentandos than the score requires, but the effect is to assure the impression of a giant machine reaching with effort the top of a hill in order to freewheel exuberantly down the other side.

Much of the special quality of this performance came from that sense of the music generating its own momentum, and from the fantastic brilliance of colour. The blendings within this orchestra, of woodwind and violins, trumpets and percussion, were marvellously clear and true, and the liveliness and variety of tone were enhanced by the soloists, Paul Crossley and Tristan Murali. With each layer so secure, even the most crowded textures lay open to view.

Luminous polyphony was a feature, too, of the Tristram music played as an effectively contrasting approach to the same theme, and done with a long breath that Mr Rattle must some day extend into the rest of the opera.

Paul Griffiths

Opera

Volatility of contrasts

La forza del destino Bavarian State Opera, Munich

The sense of destiny in La forza del destino is so clearly fashioned by the characters involved that Verdi's St Petersburg opera might just as well have been called "War and Peace"; everyone is either running after the one or crying for the other, and the result is a sad, sprawling epic of human degradation and destruction, sanctified by the tragic obliquity of Verdi's music. It is this almost contradictory quality of heroic pessimism that is highlighted in the new Munich production, which is staged by Götz Friedrich and conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli.

Like the work itself, the production is a patchy success, its value lying more in the way it inspires admiration for the compass of Verdi's imagination than in its achievement of conventional operatic goals. Friedrich was a good choice for this opera. He has a flair for both the war scenes and the arch humanity of the friar Melitone that stops just short of caricature; and he brings to the squalor and pessimism a characteristically strong dose of intellectual rigour.

The chief interest in Friedrich's concept is the way he tightens the opera's structure by using a single set. There is not even time for applause between acts or scenes, and the evening sweeps past with exceptional coherence. The opera is played in full in the revised Milan version of 1869, the only change being the placing of the encampment scene



Kurt Moll as the Father Superior, Julia Varady as Leonora

before rather than after the first Carlo-Alvaro fight, thereby keeping Melitone's sermon well apart from his hectoring of the beggars at the start of Act IV. At the end, Alvaro expires next to Leonora, though Friedrich leaves us to decide whether this is Liebestod or sheer world-weariness.

The action takes place in a giant brick-and-concrete ruin, shaped like a transept, selectively lit and sparsely decorated for each scene. This handmade theatre of operations, designed by Hans Schaver-

polish. Thereafter he was the model of discretion, tempering nervous energy with respect for his singers' strengths and limitations.

The taut expressiveness of his reading was at one with the production. The weakest point in a strong cast was the Alvaro of Veriano Luchetti, whose voice has a pleasant open timbre but lacks weight - his top is suspect and his phrasing correspondingly short. Nor was his acting up to the standard of his non-Italian colleagues: the role could really do with a Carreras. Bruno Pola impressed as Melitone. Wolfgang Brendel's Carlo had a subdued evening - the voice is just about heavy enough, but sounds stubbornly one-dimensional. Marjana Lipovsek was a swashbuckling, peg-legged Preziosilla, a victim as much as a product of war, using a rifle for physical support and her other crutch to make a living.

Kurt Moll, the personification of sobriety and saintliness, was an outstanding Father Superior, his Act II duet with Julia Varady's Leonora undoubtedly the watershed of the performance. Miss Varady sang the same role in Munich's previous Forza production in 1974. She looks and sounds as young as ever and, if the cropped hair and grey uniform of Act II gave her more the appearance of the revolutionary than the patient, she justified all in her vocal radiance, stamina and tender feminine fragility. She is a complete child of the opera stage, who communicates more about drama in musica in a single phrase than many singers do in a career.

Andrew Clark

London débuts

Maybe the Prince of Wales's homily on the British-Japanese culture gap had some effect on a respectably full Queen Elizabeth Hall to hear Kinoko Shirane, who now lives in London.

Mistress of the koto, the long, zither-like instrument with 13 individually fretted strings, she spanned three centuries of consistently beguiling music. She performed alone and with Yoshikazu Iwamoto on the shakuhachi, the bamboo flute.

She was joined by Nohuko Imai, distinguished viola player in the Western tradition, for a duo, Of Moonlight, composed by Ryohet Hirose for the occasion, sharing equal interest between the players in

a texture of Webernisch counterpoint.

Another premiere of more traditional cast was given in Katsumoshi Nagasawa's Benihana no Kyoku, which established the koto as my best-liked instrument of the year, mild in its tone and with oo amplification anywhere around.

Sharon Cooper, an English mezzo whose career has begun mainly in France, sang as if she had two voices which had not quite met each other, but with thrilling operatic potential.

The divided vocal character ideally suited the first of Mahler's 11 waltzer songs, in a full-toned and beautifully-phrased account of them as a whole.

Jeffrey Cohen's attentive piano partnering was also subtle of effect to a group of Hugo Wolf songs, some of which signalled likeable humour on the singer's part, and Britten's Auden setting. On this Island, were sung with poetic candour.

Some further attention to consonants would have helped the verbal sense in English and Italian, not least in personifying the emotions of Haydn's Arianna a Nazos.

As a Baroque violin specialist, the American Richard Laby was refreshingly free of mannerism in a programme of unaccompanied Bach. His silver-toned Amati violin, a beautiful instrument of 1623 acquired the more fully to explore the six Sonatas and

Panias, sounded crisply responsive to his touch, and even a snapped string near the end of the C major Sonata could not faze his concentration.

Most rewarding was his avoidance of any tendency to preach at us on the musical texts, as he were, and instead to play with a natural inflexion in phrasing, a springy sense of rhythm and clarity even in spread chords.

The D minor Partita with its great Chaconne found him in magisterial control, and nothing sounded forced in encompassing the broadest range with sustained lines and strongly implied tonal roots.

Noël Goodwin

An auction where you can even afford the time.

If the prices don't put some auctions out of your reach, the viewing and sale dates certainly will. Sotheby's Conduit Street Sales are devised to fit in with your lifestyle. So there are evening and Sunday viewings, with the sale on the following Monday evening.

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VIEWING TIMES

Thursday 29th May 12 noon-8.00 pm
Friday 30th May 9.00 am-7.00 pm
Sunday 1st June 10.00 am-1.00 pm
Monday 2nd June 11.00 am-2.00 pm

NEXT SALE

Monday 2nd June 3.30 pm-9.00 pm

SOTHEBY'S CONDUIT ST SALEROOM ESTD.1986

English National Opera London Coliseum St Martin's Lane London WC2N 4ES Box Office 01-836 3161 CC 01-240 5258 "stylish and entertaining" Daily Telegraph Tomorrow at 7.30 Die Fledermaus Strauss Standby £6.50 from 6.45pm

EURIPIDES' MEDEA Prepared by Philip Villaver PHILIP BRETHERTON JOHN BURGESS LYNN FARLEIGH JULIAN GLOVER MADHUR JAFFREY DARLENE JOHNSON ROBERT REYNOLDS JEROME WILLIS Directed by MARY MERRILL Set Designer JANE MARTIN Costume Designer IONA MURPHY Lighting NICK CHELTON Music RICHARD BLACKFORD Lync Theatre King St, Hammersmith W6 Box Office 01-741 2311

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WALL STREET

New York (Reuter) - Wall Street share prices climbed further in early trading yesterday, extending the recovery that gave it last week's best gain in more than two months, traders said.

Declining interest rates, carryover buying and speculation that oil prices could fall further, helped the rise, they said.

The Dow Jones Industrial

average was up 14.45 points to 1,837.74. The transportation average was up 3.93 points to 801.89. Advancing issues led declining issues by a margin of five to three on a thin early volume of eight million shares.

The most active share was Safeway, up 1/4 to 45.

Mr George Pirrone of the Dreyfus Corporation said that full revival of the bull market was still some way off.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., AMR, ASA, Allied Signal) and their corresponding prices and changes.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., Freese, Fiat, Fiat Chrysler) and their corresponding prices and changes.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing market rates for Sterling spot and forward rates, including columns for currency types and rates.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing various foreign exchange rates for different currencies and regions.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various international currencies.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other sterling rates for various currencies.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table showing Euro money deposit rates for different terms and currencies.

GOLD

Table showing gold prices and related market data.

TREASURY BILLS

Table showing Treasury bill rates and market information.

CANADIAN PRICES

Table showing Canadian market prices for various commodities and stocks.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures prices and movements.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table showing financial trust prices and performance.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table showing investment trust prices and market data.

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Table showing meat and livestock market prices.

STANDARD CATHODIC COPPER

Table showing standard cathodic copper prices.

COFFEE

Table showing coffee market prices.

LEAD

Table showing lead market prices.

ZINC

Table showing zinc market prices.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table listing various unit trusts with columns for name, price, and change.

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TEMPUS

FKI makes the most of opportunity

FKI's success is based on a simple formula. In the somewhat unglamorous specialist electrical engineering sector it has identified a market opportunity...

As a result, it has seen its share price leap from 7 1/2p in October 1983, when it was granted a full listing on the Stock Exchange...

It seeks to acquire small electronic or light mechanical engineering companies, usually wholly owned subsidiaries of much larger companies...

A string of acquisitions last year, £10.5 million worth, helped the company to boost its pretax profit by 66 per cent from £3.5 million to £5.7 million...

Following the latest acquisition of the engineering and components business of Thorn EMI for £11.65 million...

With profits expected to be coming through from its proposed five-division structure...

by mid-1987, the group is intent on building a track record which will enable it to make a quantum leap...

GUS/Harris

Queensway

The stock market is taking its time to recognize the importance of last week's deal with Harris Queensway and Great Universal Stores...

As well as suggesting a solution to the potential problem of succession at GUS, the deal throws up an interesting anomaly in the share ratings...

As part of the deal GUS acquired 23 per cent of Harris Queensway. It will therefore be able to treat Harris Queensway as an associate company...

While gaining 23 per cent of Harris Queensway's profit, GUS will lose the contribution of Times Furnishing and Home Charm...

Mr John Chataway, of the brokers Kitcat & Aitken, expects Harris Queensway to make £60 million in the year to December 1987...

By contrast GUS is trading on 12 times forecast earnings for the year to March 1987. Mr Chataway expects it to have made £291 million in the year to March 1986...

It seems likely that Sir Philip will in time apply the same entrepreneurial flair to...

GUS that he has applied at Harris Queensway. If so the discrepancy in the two companies' share ratings is bound to narrow.

Dunhill

Dunhill Holdings has much in common with its quality customers. Like the best of them, it has plenty of cash and would like to buy more luxury goods...

The general strategy is clearly successful. Profits rose from £15.1 million to £20.1 million last year, on sales up from £117 million to £130 million.

At the year end Dunhill had net cash of £35.9 million, up from £16.6 million. Admittedly, the year end figure represents a seasonal peak...

The cash allowed Dunhill to increase its dividend by 45 per cent to a total of 5.5p, against a 41 per cent increase in earnings per share.

The dividend was covered 5.4 times so shareholders can expect another big increase in the present year, assuming the company does not make a big acquisition.

At the same time as scouring the country for suitable purchases, the company is spending capital on Dunhill, the original business taking in lighters and Montblanc...

Both businesses should do well this year, with Lane the tobacco company in the United States likely to do no better than hold its own.

Overall, the company could be pressed to keep up last year's...

Stripping out the cash from profits and the share price leaves the shares, at 498p, trading on a prospective multiple of only 11, assuming operating profits grow by 25 per cent in the present year.

Even though there is little speculative interest, with Rothmans International holding 51 per cent of the shares, that rating looks unsuitably dowdy.

LET aims to develop historic market

By Judith Huntley Commercial Property Correspondent

The Spitalfields Development Group, a consortium of London & Edinburgh Trust, the developer, and Balfour Beatty, the construction company...

Talks are underway with the City of London Corporation, owner of the 14 acre site, about moving the fruit, vegetable and flower market to a location owned by LET...

The market traders favour the move and the developer has asked the corporation to look into the feasibility of its proposals which include keeping the Horner market buildings and protecting the view of Christ Church...

The developer is not alone in wanting to redevelop Spitalfields to take advantage of big bang, which is causing financial conglomerates to take large amounts of office space.

Rosehaugh/Stanhope, the developer of nearby Broadgate at Liverpool Street station is also looking at the area.

The City Corporation may put the site out to tender, hoping that keen competition will result in a high price being paid for the site.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Sell-off speculation fails to liven up Lonrho share price

Speculation in a rather subdued market yesterday suggested that Tiny Rowland's international trading group Lonrho was close to selling off part of its South African interests in a multi-million pound deal.

Dealers are convinced that Lonrho has been having secret talks with Mr. Harry Oppenheimer's Anglo American Corporation for some time. If completed the deal could be worth \$400 million (£261 million) to Lonrho and would certainly please the City which has only just started to warm to Lonrho shares.

The renewed speculation in the City about Lonrho's intentions followed a visit by some of the Lonrho board to the offices of Chase Manhattan Securities, one of the bigger dealing houses to emerge from the recent spate of City mergers.

Among the leaders Hanson Trust, fresh from its victory over Imperial Group, sported a 6p rise to 184p. Full year figures are expected next week ahead of the Derby which the group now sponsors.

Among the leaders Beecham slipped 12p to 393p after a cautious press article and

Michael Clark, who has an outstanding reputation as a market reporter, has joined The Times as senior stock market correspondent, the first of several new appointments designed to give readers the best daily coverage of the market.

Many fund managers believe that Lonrho shares may now start to rise after the expiry of the May traded options today. Speculators will be forced either to take up their options, or cash them in. This will bring a sigh of relief to many jobbers who appear to have worked hard to keep the speculators under pressure.

The rest of the equity market appeared to be taking an extended holiday break with turnover down to a trickle and investors cautious about opening new positions towards the tail-end of the long three week account. The wave of selling on the French Bourse on Monday did little help sentiment. As a result, the FT 30-share index closed 6.6 down at 1,342.8, having been more than 10 points down earlier in the day.

The FT 30-share index closed 6.6 down at 1,342.8, having been more than 10 points down earlier in the day. The broader based FT-SE 100 fared little better finishing 5.3 lower at 1,612.1.

Among the leaders Hanson Trust, fresh from its victory over Imperial Group, sported a 6p rise to 184p. Full year figures are expected next week ahead of the Derby which the group now sponsors.

Among the leaders Beecham slipped 12p to 393p after a cautious press article and

Grand Metropolitan declined 9p to 406p on a reported denial of an approach from Philip Morris.

ICI also reflected the general mood, down 12p to 889p, and British Telecom eased 4p to 236p in spite of recent favourable comment.

A surprise bid for Cable House Properties from Ladbroke did little for the shares concerned. Cable losing 3p to 200p and Ladbroke 4p to 335p.

In contrast Don Bros, suspended at 130p, returned at 168p following the 175p terms from Shell. Associated Newspapers, publisher of The Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday, greeted the news that its EuroMoney Publications subsidiary is coming to market with a 4p rise to 280p.

EuroMoney, which specializes in publishing financial magazines covering banking and the Eurobond market, is expected to be capitalized at £90 million. Associated has a 90 per cent stake in the company.

Bumper profits boosted Dunhill 34p to 500p and Midsummer Inns 15p to 350p.

Japan is world's biggest creditor

From David Watts Tokyo

Japan replaced Britain as the world's biggest net creditor last year. The ministry of finance here reported yesterday that Japan's balance sheet for 1985 showed \$129.8 billion worth of official and private assets abroad in excess of liabilities at the end of last year. That total was \$55.5 billion or almost 75 per cent more than in 1984.

The ministry estimated British net external assets at \$90 billion last year and West Germany's at \$50 billion. United States liabilities were estimated at \$60 billion.

Japan's gross external assets were up by 28.3 per cent, but at \$437.7 billion they still trailed both Britain and the US. The figure for Britain was \$712.2 and for the US \$914.7.

A third of Japan's external total comprised stock and bond investments, mostly in the US. The balance of such portfolio investments, totalling \$145.7 billion, was up by 66.4 per cent.

Our article of May 19 entitled "Auditors walk tight-rope over 'hidden' figures" about the prevalence of "improving" company accounts by hiding poor results, referred to a Department of Trade and Industry finding that "Cornhill's" accounting had been "unusually deceptive". We are glad to make it clear, and we accept, that the company criticized was Cornhill Consolidated, liquidated in 1974, and not the well-known and wholly unconnected Cornhill Insurance plc, to which we apologize for any confusion caused.

But the London Standard Survey is unique in questioning the people who pay for the campaigns and the people they're aimed at. Names are named. Punches aren't pulled. Among the subjects probed for us by financial communications firm Dewe Rogerson: What lessons can be learned from recent bloody take-over battles? How are communications involved in the spectacular spread of share-ownership? And what of life after Big Bang? Will you wake up to find your company owned by parties unknown on the far side of the world? If you're concerned with any kind of corporate communications, investor relations or the strategies of corporate acquisition or defence, you should read the London Standard Survey. Following its introduction on June 10th, we'll be holding a seminar on the 27th to go into it more deeply. If you'd like a copy of the survey, telephone 01-353 0355. And judge the whole business for yourself.

The LONDON STANDARD FOR A GREAT CITY

JUDGEMENT DAY FOR BRITISH BUSINESS

On June 10th, at a luncheon at the Savoy, British business will have a lot to digest. Its leaders will sit in judgement on their own ability to communicate. The topmost brass from Britain's top 100 companies and the City will be served the most authoritative survey to date on corporate communications. Communications? Isn't that the subject that Chief Executives hand swiftly down the line? Evidently, not any more. As our survey clearly shows. We sought and got views from the highest levels of industry and commerce; from the City, Parliament and the financial media; and from a broad spectrum of private and institutional shareholders. From such a disparate sample, there was a surprising amount of agreement: Corporate communications matter a lot, and are likely to matter more in future. Indeed, they're key to corporate policy-making. Now you'd expect to hear that from people in PR, advertising and the media. But the London Standard Survey is unique in questioning the people who pay for the campaigns and the people they're aimed at. Names are named. Punches aren't pulled. Among the subjects probed for us by financial communications firm Dewe Rogerson: What lessons can be learned from recent bloody take-over battles? How are communications involved in the spectacular spread of share-ownership? And what of life after Big Bang? Will you wake up to find your company owned by parties unknown on the far side of the world? If you're concerned with any kind of corporate communications, investor relations or the strategies of corporate acquisition or defence, you should read the London Standard Survey. Following its introduction on June 10th, we'll be holding a seminar on the 27th to go into it more deeply. If you'd like a copy of the survey, telephone 01-353 0355. And judge the whole business for yourself.

COMPANY NEWS

WHIM CREEK: The company says that it intends in 1986 to consolidate and further strengthen its position as the primary gold producer in the Meekatharra area in western Australia. The chairman, Mr Patrick J. Hughes, says in the annual report that the gold production target for 1986 is 40,000 oz from its Meekatharra operations. The plant produced 38,086 oz in 1985. RESOURCES: The company, which began gold production at its Cork Tree Well mine last month, expects to run at a capacity of 30,000 oz a year by the end of June. A total of 18,000 oz of gold is planned for the nine months to December 31, 1986, according to the annual report. Although the plant is still in the commissioning stage, gold discoveries are in excess of 90 per cent. GOLDBERG & SONS: Results for year to March 29. Dividend 3p (0.5), making 4p (1.1). It is the directors' intention that future dividends should reflect growth in profitability. Figures in £000. Pretax profit 2,558 (640), tax 1,173 (487). Earnings per share 8.1p (0.9). HUNTER SAPPHIRE: Final dividend 1.65p, making 2.5p (1.75). Figures in £000 for year to February 28. Turnover 73,649 (64,601), pretax profit 2,143 (1,166), tax 893 (423). Earnings per share pre-extraordinary items 7.60p (4.92). HEWDEEN-STUART: The company agreed to acquire the entire plant hire interests of the Isis Group, subject to the consent of Isis shareholders. The agreement envisaged a consideration of £6 million. The sum of £4,065 million is to be satisfied by the issue to Isis Plant of six million new Hewden ordinary shares and £883,612 (together with the consideration for the properties of £440,000) will be settled in cash by Hewden-Stuart. Morgan Grenfell has agreed to purchase from Isis Plant the six million new ordinary shares in Hewden-Stuart at 67.34p per share. Morgan Grenfell is placing these shares with institutional investors. SCOTTISH NATIONAL TRUST: Interim dividend 1.7p (1.5). Figures in £000 for six months to March 31. Gross revenue 3,387 (3,532), net revenue before tax 2,398 (2,130), tax 764 (702). Earnings per share 2.33p (2.21). Revenue account should remain buoyant for the second half. The board intends to recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares higher than that of 1985. HOME BREWERY CO: An interim dividend of 4p per share will be paid on the ordinary shares and S ordinary shares for the year to September 30. MIDSUMMER INNERS: Figures in £000 for 26 weeks to March 31. Turnover 2,950 (932), pretax profit 404 (111), tax nil (same). Earnings per share 11.5p (10.3p adjusted). The second half has started well and the chairman expects to report a further substantial improvement at the year end. PERICOM: Results for six months to March 31. The directors have decided that interim dividends should be resumed and they have declared an interim of 1p. They expect to at least maintain the final at last year's 1.3p. Figures in £000. Turnover 8,694 (4,436), pretax profit 977 (loss 55). Earnings per share 7.8p (loss 0.6p). SENIOR ENGINEERING: The company has sold at book value the fixed assets (except the freehold land and buildings) and stocks and work-in-progress of its subsidiary, David Worthington, to Chilcotts for about £120,000 cash. NMW COMPUTERS: The company, through its subsidiary, Integrated Processing and Communications, and International City Holdings have established a jointly owned company, ICH Microprocessor Systems, to continue the development and marketing of the NMW-designed range of microprocessor work stations. ICH will have a controlling interest of 80.1 per cent and NMW will hold 19.9 per cent. DON BROTHERS, BUISH: Shell is to make agreed offers, totalling £23 million, for the ordinary and preference capital, subject to Don's pretax profits for 1985-86 being satisfactory. Terms for each ordinary share, 175p of nominal loan notes, 1991, with a cash alternative offer of 175p a share; for each preference share, 74p in cash. COLOROLL: Group final 3p, making 5p. Figures in £000 for year to March 31. Turnover 60,836 (37,369), pretax profit 6,230 (3,814), tax 2,398 (1,666). Earnings per share 13.6p. More company news, page 24.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for company names and share prices. Includes Equities, Rights Issues, and other financial data.

Interest Rate Change. Allied Irish Banks plc announces that with effect from close of business on 27th May, 1986, its Base Rate was decreased from 10 1/2% to 10% p.a. Allied Irish Bank. Head Office - Britain: 64/66 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5AL. Tel: 01-588 0691 and branches throughout the country.

Firm foundations in the Chinese wall

Financiers working in the same conglomerate need safeguards to avoid a clash of client interests

Scene: a wine bar in the City. At the table are three City characters all of whom work for one of the new financial conglomerates which dominate the investment and securities industry in this country.

One of them works for the corporate finance department, advising companies on such matters as take-overs, share issues, and mergers. Another buys and sells shares for the conglomerate (a market maker), and the final one manages pension fund money.

This combination is perfectly feasible given the size and diversity of the large financial conglomerates, which will be fully operational after the "Big Bang" deregulation of the Stock Exchange.

It demonstrates the two main needs for the so-called Chinese wall arrangements, whereby information available to one part of a firm is withheld from other sections. The idea is that individual sections of the firm must operate within the criteria applicable to their discrete functions and not on the basis of any broader interest.

The corporate finance person, for instance, must not pass on any non-public information about the companies he deals with in his department to the market maker, or indeed to the pension fund manager. This separation of functions is essential to provide a defence against a charge of insider trading.

Segregation is also essential as a method of resolving situations giving rise to conflicts of interest.

For instance, the corporate financier may be acting for Company A, which is bidding for Company B. If the fund manager has shares in Company B, and is wondering what he should do with them, he should make his decision

purely on an investment basis — what is good for the pension funds he manages — and not be influenced by the needs of his colleague in the corporate finance department. The interests of the corporate financier and the pension fund manager do not necessarily coincide, and may in fact conflict.

The Chinese wall system may seem implausible. Moreover the strict segregation it requires may also seem to defeat much of the purpose behind forming financial conglomerates — to group together various functions under the same legal umbrella.

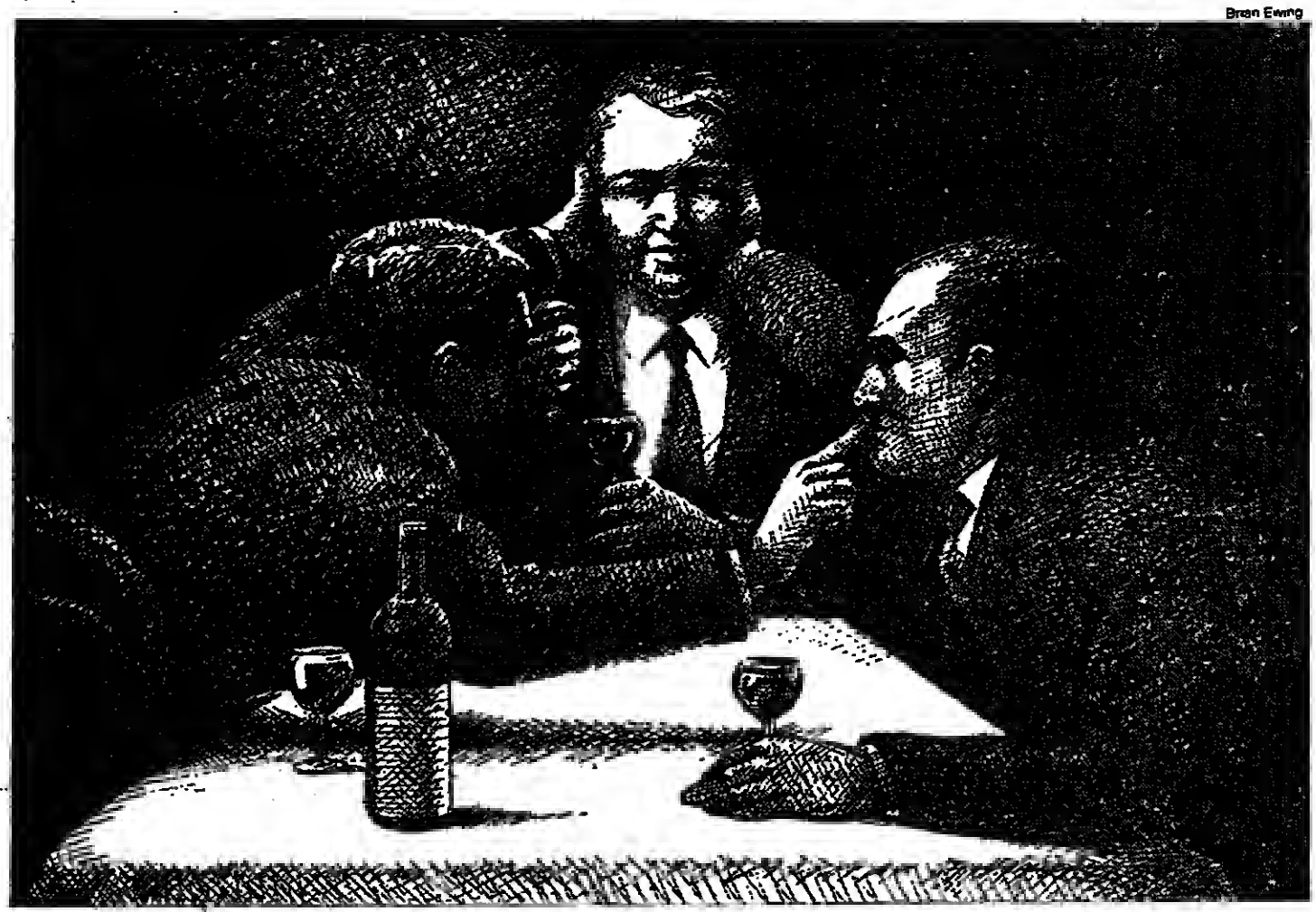
But Chinese walls, rather like belief in a deity, require an effort of faith on the part of the outsider. The conglomerate or firm can of course make this effort a little less

Defence against insider trading

strenuous by having rigorous compliance checks as well as arrangements such as physical separation of departments. Warburg Securities, for instance, have total physical separation of its asset management and dealing functions, with the sections also having separate boards.

Moreover in a world where institutions jump in and out of bed easily, and where reputation of financial services firms counts for so much, the short-term benefit of breaching a Chinese wall could, if detected or even only suspected, spell financial ruin for the firm concerned as the institutions desert for what they consider are more trustworthy havens.

It is therefore vital for firms to establish good compliance procedures — ensuring that employees are aware of what the regulations



require and establishing the systems and procedures, including Chinese walls, to see that they are complied with. As Stephen Raven, group compliance director at Warburg Securities, says: "Good compliance is good business."

At the moment the new legislation which will govern financial services, and the codes of conduct emerging from it, are prepared to give Chinese walls a chance to prove themselves against the sceptics.

The basic principle of disclosure of interest underpins the Financial Services Bill and the draft "conduct of business" rules produced by the Securities and Investment

Board. In their final form these will provide the benchmark to which all the other mini-regulators and self-regulatory organizations must measure up.

The idea behind disclosure is that if you declare a material interest to a client or investor, then conflicts, potential or otherwise, are neutralized because the decision is in effect his. It is a decision based on all the relevant facts, and underpinned by the fact that he had the opportunity not to proceed.

Disclosure however cannot cater for all situations, as the example of the three employees of the same conglomerate shows.

Hence clause 45 of the Financial Services Bill, which sets out the framework for the conduct of business rules, says that these may make provision "enabling or requiring information obtained by an authorized person in the course of carrying on one part of his business to be withheld by him from persons with whom he deals in the course of carrying on yet another part".

The expression "Chinese walls" is not actually enshrined in the Bill, but it is clear that it is this that it is referring to. Chinese walls do however get a mention in the Licensed Dealers (Conduct of Business) Rules 1983 — a statutory instrument, which says that where

the walls are in place, individuals may advise clients without disclosing that a material interest exists in another part of the firm

Quite how deep and tall the Chinese walls must be remains an open question. The decision rests with the Securities and Investment Board — the SIB — which will produce the conduct of business rules in accordance with Clause 45 of the Bill. The SIB, at the time the Bill was published, reiterated the general principle that material interests must be disclosed to investors, and that Chinese wall arrangements alone are not sufficient to remove this obligation. To do so the arrangements must achieve what they set

out to achieve, in other words to be impregnable.

The Board said that it was "prepared to provide that where information is genuinely not known to the individuals involved, directly or indirectly, in dealing with the customer, then the interest need not be disclosed. If the interest is not known it cannot affect the advice given".

This statement was the precursor to some tough draft provisions for Chinese walls contained in the draft conduct of business rules issued by the SIB in February.

These made it clear that the SIB wants not just Chinese wall arrangements, but also supervisory procedures to ensure that they are effective. Moreover Chinese walls only obviate the need for disclosure where they would mean that the person dealing did not know, nor could have known, of the existence of a conflict of interest.

In other words genuine and understandable ignorance of a conflict will be excused. Genuine ignorance which is nevertheless not understandable — generally because the person concerned

Disclosure also gives protection

ought to be aware of the conflict — will not be excused.

Chinese wall arrangements will of course be bolstered by the compliance departments which the conglomerates are in the process of developing, and by the provisions requiring reporting and publication of securities transactions, combined with the best execution rule.

Segregation of functions is clearly not going to have an easy ride in the newly established environment. Certainly firms are developing systems for securing it — as far as this is possible when one is dealing with human beings. These will at least, along with regulations, reinforce in people's minds the need to avoid conflicts of duty.

Lawrence Lever

Mergers and Acquisitions Tombstone Tally

1984			1985		
1984 M&A activity Ranked by number of deals advertised as initiated in 1984			1985 M&A activity Ranked by number of deals advertised as initiated in 1985		
RANK	FIRM	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	RANK	FIRM	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS
1	Henry Ansbacher	26	1	Henry Ansbacher	36
2	Goldman Sachs	20	2	Goldman Sachs	27
3	PaineWebber	15	3	Citicorp	19
4	Kidder Peabody	14	4	Kidder Peabody	17
5	First Boston	13	5	Bear Stearns	16
5	Merrill Lynch	13	5	Drexel Burnham Lambert	16
5	Financo	13	6	Merrill Lynch	15
8	Salomon Brothers	10	6	PaineWebber	15
9	Drexel Burnham Lambert	9	6	Salomon Brothers	15
10	Alex. Brown & Sons	7	7	Prudential-Bache Securities	11
10	Smith Barney, Harris Upham	7	8	Smith Barney, Harris Upham	10
11	Bear Stearns	6	8	Shearson Lehman Brothers	10
11	Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette	6	9	Alex. Brown & Sons	9
11	Lazard Freres	6	10	Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette	9



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The long queue to buy shares in British Telecom, and below, counting the mass of applications at Lloyds Bank, Moorgate

The great rush to go private

The Government's privatization programme is now in full swing. Selling off state-owned companies is intended to raise nearly £20 billion over the next four years.

This compares with asset sales totalling £7.6 billion in the seven years since the Conservatives took office. The pace of privatization is hotting up but, at the same time, the price of failure has become much higher.

There is no doubt that the successful flotation of British Telecom shares transformed the privatization programme from a cottage industry in the Treasury to the centre of the

Share ownership is a key element in selling state assets

economic policy stage.

The Telecom issue killed two birds with one stone, transferring assets priced by the Government at £4 billion to the private sector and at the same time fostering wider share ownership.

According to John Moore, the newly appointed Transport secretary, and formerly the financial secretary to the Treasury and the man directly responsible for privatization, wider share ownership is a key element in selling state assets.

"Our strategy is that our first preference is generally a UK public offer for sale with guaranteed participation by employees and the general public," he told the Institute for International Research conference on privatization last month.

"Sometimes, however, the nature of the company which we are selling does not make this a practical proposition. If a public offer is not possible, then a sale which leads to employees holding a major stake is often the next best alternative."

The Telecom sale encouraged about one million people



to own shares who had never done so before, according to Treasury figures.

It is a lesson that will be carried through to the privatization of British Gas starting this autumn. British Airways (assuming the current difficulties can be resolved), the National Bus Company, Rolls-Royce, the airports, the Royal Ordnance Factories, and looking a little further ahead, the privatization of the water boards.

Government-sponsored share sales.

David Clementi, a director of merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, financial advisers to the Government on the British Telecom sale, believes that the later privatizations are distinguished from the earlier ones by the realization that small investors, rather than just the major financial institutions, are a legitimate market for

with Dewe Rogerson, the advertising and public relations agency embarked on an energetic campaign to entice small shareholders into British Telecom. It included regional co-ordinators, brochures, advertising and roadshows. The BT train became a familiar sight as it travelled around the country for several weeks.

Having established shareholding in the minds of small investors, Telecom has made it easier for those that follow. It was noticeable that last year's sale of Cable & Wireless shares, with very little direct effort, attracted far more interest from small investors than the previous one, in 1981.

It is a message that the team at N M Rothschild, advising the Government on the privatization of British Gas, has taken fully on board. Whereas the Telecom campaign had to introduce potential shareholders both to the company and to the idea of holding shares, the British Gas campaign can focus on the attractions of the company.

British Telecom attracted 2.3 million applications from shareholders. It is an unofficial target to beat this for British Gas.

The British Gas sale, expected to raise £8 billion, is the major test for privatization. In addition to the small investor and UK financial institutions, it is almost certain that a significant part of the sale will be targeted to foreign buyers.

Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, Nomura of Japan, Wood Gundy of Cana-

da and the Swiss Bank Corporation, have been asked to help advise on the overseas aspect of the British Gas sale.

One issue the Government has to look to the City for guidance on is the method of sale for privatization issues. In crude terms, an issue by tender is always in danger of remaining with the underwriters, while a fixed price sale runs the risk that, if the share price subsequently rises sharply, the Government is accused of selling off precious assets cheaply.

John Moore has an answer to the latter point. "It is an

Looking to the City for guidance on methods for new sales issues

easy jibe for some academic theorists who do not understand the market, or our political opponents to say, after the event, that proceeds should have been higher from a particular sale," he said. "They look at the market price in the period after the sale and, if it has gone up, they say that the Exchequer has lost out. What nonsense. The share price performance of companies after privatization is at least partly a reflection of how the profitability and efficiency of the companies have increased as a direct result of being privatized."

The official line is that each sell-off will be taken on its own merits. But it appears that, with the full approval of the Government's various financial advisers, fixed price issues will remain the general rule.

The Government claims to get good value for money from the City out of privatization, countering the charge that asset sales line the pockets of the Conservative Party's supporters in the Square Mile.

Treasury figures show that aggregate stockbroking and underwriting commissions on the latest privatization issues, at less than 1.5 per cent, are below the 2 per cent average for comparable large private sector issues.

The City has good reason to offer keen prices for floating off public corporations. There is a good chance that the financial advisers selected by the relevant Government department in the beauty contest will stay with the privatized company in some form. Privatization offers City firms a chance to project themselves to a large audience, which will become increasingly important in the new, more competitive era.

There is a danger with privatization, that after the jewels have been picked out of the crown and sold, the Government will be left with a lump of unsaleable, loss-making, state industries. However, the addition of the water authorities to the sell-off list, which already contains more than enough for the rest of this decade, suggests that there is still quite a long way to go before this point is reached.

David Smith

Economics correspondent

Fair play watchdogs in the takeover tussles

The surge in takeover activity on the stock market coupled with the growing tendency to use new and more aggressive tactics has created a heavy workload for the takeover panel — the City body responsible for policing bid battles.

Last year's £9 billion worth of bids looks set to be exceeded comfortably this year. The two biggest completed takeovers so far this year — Hanson Trust for Imperial and Guinness for Distillers — have already added up to more than £5 billion. Two more bitterly contested giant bids — Dixons for Woolworth and Lloyds Bank for Standard Chartered — are now in progress.

The takeover panel is being called on more and more to arbitrate in these often bitter battles. Its primary function is to ensure that all shareholders are treated equally. If the panel, however, fails to give the desired answer, the aggrieved party will now often take the case to court.

The tendency to seek a judicial review, rather than accept the takeover code as interpreted by the panel, presents problems of authority for the panel. The 140 pages of the code attempt to spell out how a bid should be conducted, but changing tactics sometimes mean the code has not got the appropriate rule for the new situation.

The panel has no statutory backing and is therefore frequently accused of having no teeth. It relies for its effectiveness on willingness among City institutions to obey its rulings. The fear is that with the Big Bang approaching, conflicts of interest proliferating and competition increasing, the temptation will grow to flout the panel. As it stands the panel has no sanction against potential offenders.

In recent months the panel has come under fire for some of its decisions. In March it announced a new code aimed at banning knocking advertising in a bid battle. The advertising industry was immediately up in arms criticizing the panel for meddling in areas which it felt were the responsibility of the Advertising Standards Authority.

The panel has always had a duty to vet advertising copy to see that it complied with the code, but it clearly felt that some of the full-page ads being taken out in national newspapers were going too far. With

Tactics outstrip rules in code

writs flying between some of the bid contestants over derogatory ads, the panel's intervention was not totally surprising.

Two more recent rulings have caused controversy over the degree of discretion the panel is allowed to exert. The panel absolved Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, and its client Hillside Holdings from having to produce a cash alternative in the bid for S. & W. Berisford, although the code technically demanded this.

Kleinwort had inadvertently breached the 15 per cent ceiling on share purchases in the year before a bid by buying 15.2 per cent of Berisford. Technically this should have triggered a cash offer to all shareholders at the highest price paid in the market by Hillside. The highest price was well above the paper offer price and enforcement of the rule would have been a bitter pill for Hillside to swallow. Charterhouse Japhet, Berisford's merchant bank, asked the panel to enforce the rule, but was turned down. The panel stressed that it considered the rule important, but was not enforcing it in this case because the breach was both small and inadvertent.

The full panel, consisting of a dozen representatives of City organizations, including merchant banks, insurance companies, clearing banks, pension funds and industry representatives, was convened to consider the 15 per cent breach issue. The executive, which handles the day-to-day



John Walker-Haworth will head a team of executives in the new era after Big Bang — but will the panel be able to retain its voluntary role?

decisions, had already indicated that it did not think Kleinwort's breach would involve a cash offer. However, a full panel meeting was called because of sensitivity after the full panel had overturned the decision of the executive on another matter.

The full panel had decided that Robert Maxwell's acceptance of a non-executive directorship on the board of Demerger, the company bidding for Exel, constituted a concert-party. The executive had earlier ruled that there was no concert party and Mr Maxwell had consequently bought more shares in Exel.

The Demerger bid, to which Mr Maxwell assented his 13 per cent holding in Exel, has now lapsed, but Mr Maxwell is prevented from launching his own bid for another year. He has also spent around £5 million on the additional shares, which are now worth far less in the market-place in the absence of bid speculation.

The apparent division between the executive and the full panel has caused nervousness in some quarters about placing too much reliance on an executive ruling. There is virtually no right of appeal

against the full panel's decision. The full panel, which does not include the executive, is itself much like a final court of appeal. The full panel has to give permission for an appeal to be lodged.

The system, despite the recent strains caused not least by the pressure of work on the executive, has functioned fairly effectively to date. City institutions do respect the code and the panel enforcing it, although the fear that was once inspired in a merchant banker when he was summoned to explain himself before the panel has long since evaporated.

The executive is headed by John Walker-Haworth, who has absented himself for two

Final court of appeal

years from S.G. Warburg, the merchant bank. Mr Walker-Haworth presides over a team of 11 executives and a supporting secretarial staff. The full panel is headed by Sir Jasper Holton, a former deputy governor of the Bank of England.

Whether the panel will be able to retain its self-regulatory and voluntary role in the new era after the Big Bang depends to a large extent on how far the various bidding companies and their merchant bank advisers are prepared to push against the spirit of the code, rather than its letter. If the game goes the way it has in America, where takeover battles are generally nastier as rules about shareholder equality do not exist, the panel has a hard time ahead of it.

Alison Eadie

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Privatizations (profit and loss record)

	Date Sold	SALES SO FAR			Minimum Holding	Value at	Profit/(Loss)
		Sale Price	Price at 23.5.86	Proceeds (£m)			
British Aerospace	Feb 81	150	547	43	50	273.5	198.5
Cable & Wireless	May 85	375	547	346	100	547	172
	Oct 81	168	635	182	100	635	467
	Dec 83	275	635	263	100	635	380
	Dec 85	587	635	580	50	317.5	24
Amersham Int	Feb 82	142	370	64	100	370	228
Britoil	Nov 82	215	178	627	100	178	(37)
	Aug 85	185	178	431	200	353	(7)
Associated British Ports	Feb 83	112	590	46	100	590	478
	Apr 84	270	590	53	100	590	320
Enterprise Oil	Jun 84	186	121	380	100	121	(64)
Jaguar	Jul 84	165	467	287	100	467	302
British Telecom	Nov 84	130	230	2,516	200	460	200

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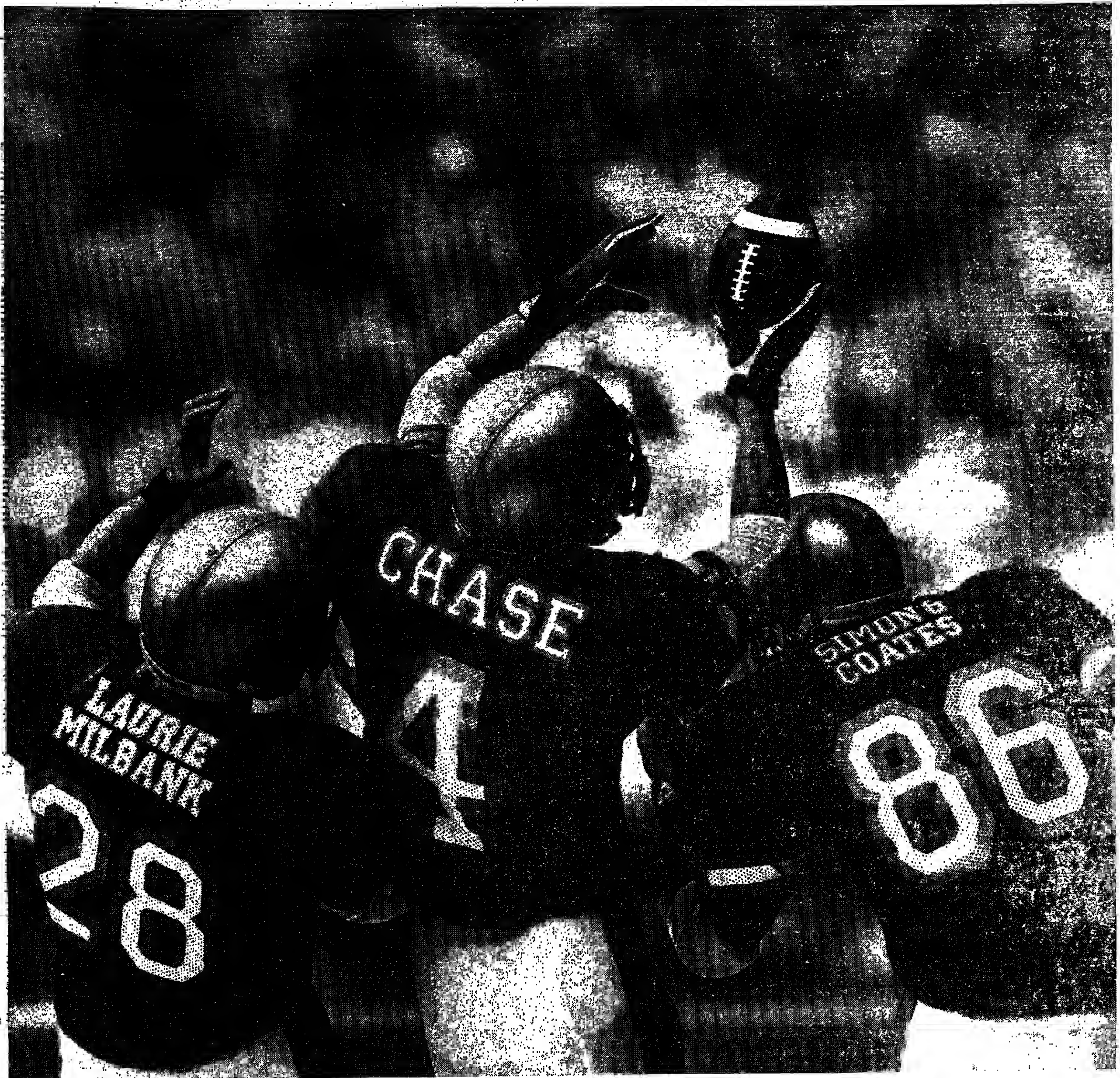
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FOCUS

Ms Ross and the £100,000 option

Not so long ago in Britain, a company's monetary affairs were run by a finance director whose job it was to speak to the local bank manager to arrange the best interest rates for borrowings and deposits. Today, the finance director is still around, but the direct day-to-day management of a company's cash positions is likely to be in the hands of a new animal — the corporate treasurer.

This modern breed of financial overseer, who might be more accustomed to snatching a hurried lunch while huddled over a video terminal in the company dealing room than enjoying a leisurely repast in the boardroom, has emerged to cope with the increasing volatility in the world money markets. The break-up of the postwar, fixed-rate currency agreements and the wild swings of the oil price have made foreign exchange and interest rates move as never before.

For a corporate treasurer, particularly those working for a company engaged in foreign business, the problem is how to prevent those currency and interest rate fluctuations eating into the profits earned by the firm's core business.

Fortunately there are now a whole range of new financial instruments available to help the treasurer do just that. The aim of these instruments is not necessarily to enable a company to borrow money or buy foreign currencies on better terms than they might have been able to do; rather to fix those terms over a future period and eliminate uncertainty.

If this is done, the company can forecast its cash flows with greater accuracy and the corporate treasurer can sleep more soundly at night.

On the foreign exchange side, in the last decade there has been an explosion in currency options, which give the company the right, but not the obligation as in futures markets, to buy or sell a currency on or before a certain date at a fixed price.

Companies can choose two routes if they want to take out an option. They can arrange a tailor-made agreement with their own bankers or trade an option on one of the international exchanges that offer them.



Susan Ross, treasurer at Reuters: Seeking the interest-rate advantage over competitor companies

In Britain, the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFE) and the Stock Exchange both offer currency options, while in America options can be traded in Chicago, the mother city of options and futures, and on the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, which recently announced a link-up with its London counterpart that enables a contract taken out on one market to be settled on the other.

Options, which supposedly started in 400 BC when the philosopher Thales put a deposit on an olive press during winter in case he needed it for the summer, are essentially insurance policies, with the price paid being the equivalent of an insurance premium.

For example, the treasurer of an English carpet exporter who expects to receive \$10,000 in six months' time and wants to hedge against currency fluctuations might buy the right to purchase sterling at a \$1.50 exchange rate for a premium of 3 cents.

If, when the time comes, the pound is worth \$1.55, he would be advised to sell the dollars on the spot market and forget about the option. But if

the pound had slumped to \$1.40, the treasurer would take up the option at a net rate of \$1.47.

Options provide certain advantages over forward cover, the traditional form of hedging foreign exchange risk where a company takes out a contract with a bank to buy or sell a currency on a future date, usually a set number of months ahead.

Options, especially those made with a bank, can be customized to suit a company's particular require-

ment by computer programs — the best known being the Black-Scholes program developed in America — that also take the volatility of the underlying currency into account.

Finally, though many companies can build the cost of forward cover into a contract price when it is translated into their domestic currency, they may have to take the cost of options into the profit-and-loss account.

On the domestic scene, companies are also turning to

months starting in a year's time at 9% per cent.

If the pound does badly and British interest rates have to rise, she will be able to get better rates when she actually has the money to band. But if interest rates slump because of decreasing inflation, Ms Ross can earn interest at 9% per cent — less her option cost of course — while others all around her are getting a miserable 5 per cent and receiving a dressing-down from the board of directors to boot.

Companies that need to borrow cash, of course, do the same in reverse. They can also take advantage of another facility developed by banks over the past few years — interest rate swaps. These enable a company to convert a loan taken out at floating interest rates into a fixed-rate borrowing.

This is particularly useful if a company thinks interest rates are going to level off or rise but is unable on its own to obtain a fixed-rate loan. The bank takes on the company's credit risk and acts as a marriage broker, pairing it off with another company which for some reason — perhaps to

meet future receipts — wants to swap a loan arranged at fixed rates for a floating rate arrangement.

These are only some of the simplest arrangements available and the marketing departments of our leading banks have other more complicated products up their sleeves, which may combine swaps and options or bring in other facilities such as interest rate caps, which as their name suggests, put a limit on the interest rate that a borrower will pay. As both banks and companies will admit, the complexity of some new financial instruments can bring headaches.

Bank officials are well aware that the very mention of the words "options" or "swaps" may make certain company chairmen jump out of their seat with fright.

Said one banker: "When the chairman of a manufacturing company in Barnsley thinks of options he thinks of those screaming hordes of Chicago traders and how they make and lose fortunes in a minute. What he doesn't think about is how they can save his company some money."

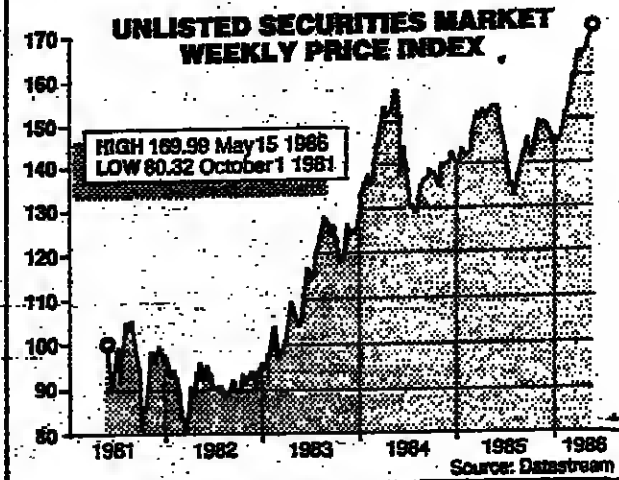
According to Anthony Williams of Barclays Merchant Bank, it is a question of using education to narrow the "culture gap" between banks, corporate treasurers and company directors. He said: "The terms that bankers take for granted in everyday use may just be understood by the treasurer but could baffle the board."

From the other side of the counter, however, some treasurers feel that offered by banks have been worked out by the back-room boys who understand their computers better than the CEOs of their customers.

At Reuters, for instance, two in-house dealers handle all the company's receipts to no less than 27 currencies and Sue Ross says she can meet all her normal hedging requirements through forward cover arrangements without any recourse to contracts.

She said: "I'm very sceptical about how widely used some of these new things are."

Richard Lander



Four hundred millionaires from a new market

The unlisted securities market has become the single most important source of equity capital for small companies since it was launched five years ago.

In this time more than 450 companies have obtained a quotation for their shares, raising about £1,000 million.

Of these firms, 55 have gone on to a full Stock Exchange listing, 31 have been acquired, 15 have been reorganized, and a further nine have had dealings suspended or cancelled for solvency reasons.

However, there have been signs in recent months that the pace of recruits to the market was slackening. The accounts of many firms, particularly those which have been involved with 15 per cent of all flotations to the market, noted that only seven companies were floated during the first quarter of the year compared with 18 in the same quarter a year ago.

This was the fewest number of new entrants to the market in any quarter since it was established posing the question: was the market losing its attraction?

The USM has been a major success for the Stock Exchange. It was set up amid concern that the number of companies seeking a listing on the Stock Exchange was dwindling.

The Stock Exchange took the sensible view that one of the main obstacles preventing companies from coming forward was the very high entry standards required. So it took the innovative step of relaxing the rules so that a company could join with only three years rather than five years trading history, and allowed the owners to hold on to the bulk of their shares, selling no more than 10 per cent to the public rather than 25 per cent as in the case of a full listing.

The USM, after a tentative beginning with just 23 companies, has blossomed in the great bull market — despite some setbacks.

Initially it attracted a high number of technology related companies whose imminent demise was being constantly predicted. The end nearby came when with the near collapse of Acorn Computers, once the USM's biggest company valued at £217 million.

When dealings were halted with its shares changing hands at just 28p the company was worth just £30 million. But by that time the USM has fortunately broadened its base having passed through the technology phase and oil and gas exploration period to something bordering a microcosm of the main market.

Now in fact the USM embraces PR firms, architects, nursing homes, engineers, travel firms, T-shirt printers, pub refurbishers, and manufacturers of anti-terrorist parking barriers!

Alan Comber of Peat Marwick does not think that the sluggish rate of arrivals earlier this year marked any long term loss of confidence in the market.

He said: "It may be that private companies which would otherwise make good USM prospects are being snapped up by major corporations in the light of the recent frenetic acquisition activity in the City."

"Though there is no evidence that the prospective entrants themselves have lost any enthusiasm for a public flotation, there are some signs that companies which would have selected the USM a year ago are now choosing a full listing. Another possible explanation for the current downturn in entrants to the junior market is that the City is becoming increasingly selective about the companies it wishes to sponsor, in the period preceding the Big Bang."

Though the rate has picked up since the first quarter, the total number joining the USM is unlikely to match the 99 last year.

Even so, there are signs that companies are endeavouring to scramble aboard the USM bandwagon ahead of the flotation of TSB and British Gas — which will drain a lot of cash out of the system — as long

Despite criticisms, the USM is in most cases viewed favourably

before the next General Election as they are able.

This is the view of Patrick Harrex of accountants Spicer and Pegler who have also been prominent in steering companies to the market. He said: "I think there is a feeling that if you are planning to go to the market then do it quickly and take the money while you can."

Many companies with the necessary experience are also finding it only a little more expensive to complete the journey in one move and go directly to the main market.

There, they would join former USM recruits such as Spring Ram Corporation, manufacturers of bathroom and kitchen sinks; McCarthy and Stone, builders of sheltered housing for the elderly; and the public relations group formed out of the merger of two USM companies, Addison Communications and the Michael Page Partnership.

The overall view of the USM remains a positive one. There are still criticisms about the limited amount of stock available on the market which does create a liquidity problem. This of course makes the share price very volatile. But few of the companies which joined have regrets about having made the move.

A recent survey showed that the unwelcome aspects of going to the market were not financial but instead the problems caused by the amount of boardroom time taken up by the move. But considering the USM has created nearly 400 new millionaires most directors no doubt consider the time well spent.

Cliff Feltham

Confidence tempered by fear of a major upset

The recent record-breaking run of rights' issues has frightened investors. In one hugely demanding week earlier this month there were no less than four major rights issues including a £714 million blockbuster from National Westminster, the largest ever.

In the same week the FT Ordinary Share Index plummeted 41 points.

In the City the fall in the market was blamed entirely on the spate of rights issues, and these became a talking point.

Kenneth Inglis, of the stockbrokers Phillips & Drew, refers to a "series of obsessions". In the first three months of the year investors were preoccupied by the excellent prospects for profit increases; now they are worried by rights issues; in the third quarter it could be political uncertainties that dominate market sentiment.

He believes that share prices were overheated anyway and that the market was due for a correction. Rights' issues pro-

TOP 10 BIGGEST RIGHTS ISSUES

ISSUER	£M	DATE
NatWest	714	May 86
BP	623	Jun 81
Hanson Trust	519	Jun 85
Barclays	507	Mar 85
Saatchi & Saatchi	406	Apr 86
Prudential	357	May 86
NatWest	236	Jul 84
Beechams	197	Jun 83
RTZ	192	Jun 83
Trafalgar House	175	Feb 85

*Hanson issue comprised £370 million in ordinary shares and remainder in preference shares.

vided "an occasion for doing what needed to be done."

In a rights' issue a company sets out to raise money by issuing new shares, usually at a discount to the market price of existing shares. Shareholders are offered new shares in proportion to their existing holding, for example two shares for every five they already own. To maintain their percentage stake in the company they have to dig

deep into their pockets for cash.

So far this year companies have asked their shareholders for £2.2 billion through rights' issues, which compares with a total of £3.1 billion for the whole of last year. The demands have nearly all fallen in April and May, following a quiet start to the year.

In taking fright at the spate of rights' issues, often known as cash calls, investors were taking their cue from history books. A year ago a similar stream of rights' issues culminated in a £500 million cash call, then a record, from Hanson Trust, which was followed by a sharp slump in share prices.

The stock market soon recovered however and in the first quarter of this year it rose strongly. Companies could not resist the temptation of raising cheap money, and this gave rise to accusations of opportunism. The City was particularly unnerved by companies who refused to say



Kenneth Inglis of Phillips & Drew: Investors suffer "a series of obsessions"

what they would use the rights' money for.

The man from the Pru is normally trusted to invest without outside interference but when Prudential Assurance asked shareholders to cough up £357 million they wanted to know why. The company simply said the rights' issue proceeds would enable it to take advantage of opportunities as and when they arose.

Saatchi and Saatchi was equally vague about the purpose of its £406 million cash call, though since it was launched the company has agreed a merger with Ted Bates and so become the largest advertising agency in the world.

Harris Queensway is opening several new stores at great expense but these would normally be funded out of cash flow or bank borrowings. Britannia Arrow was more specific in that it wanted the money to pay for MIM (Montagu Investment Management).

It is not just the flood of rights issues that has caught investors' attention. Companies have been joining the stock market in ever growing numbers, giving rise to a hectic new issue season. In the busy week of NatWest's record breaking cash call there were no less than five offers for sale and four placings.

The largest of the recent arrivals was Mrs Fields Inc, an American cookie company set up and run by 29-year-old S Debbie Fields and valued at £210 million. Despite all the glamour and excitement of the company, only 16 per cent of the shares on offer were subscribed. The rest were left with the underwriters.

Even some of the issues that were fully subscribed and traded initially at a premium have lost favour now. Shares in Templeton, Callwath, an American fund management company, for example, stand 10p below the 215p offer price.

Adrian Fitzgerald of Wood Mackenzie, the brokers, believes the problem of indigestion, such as it is, will sort itself out. "It doesn't need anybody to tighten the controls," he says.

Clearing the decks before privatization

The Bank of England is responsible for running an orderly queue of rights' issues, so the theoretical implication of the recent spate of cash calls is that several more are lined up. In practice the market's recent correction is likely to have frightened off the more half-hearted of the companies. Fitzgerald suggests the queue will therefore thin out naturally.

Already Target Group, the life assurance and unit trust company, has postponed its stock market flotation planned for June until October or later. Target's managing director, John Stone, says the main reason for the delay is the fall in the market.

Target was hoping for a fairly generous valuation to reflect both its past performance and potential profitability. It is currently suffering from "new business strain" which means that recent sales gains have yet to feed through to increased profits.

In addition the float would have faced the life sector with

several concurrent demands. The Pru's rights' issue is absorbing £357 million and the market is expecting a further placing of shares in Abbey Life next month. Target would have been third on the list, which is hardly propitious.

Target still plans to join the stock market this autumn so it clearly believes the current bout of market weakness will not last. The problem for Target is that by the autumn the Government's privatization campaign will be in full swing. Royal Ordnance, Rolls-Royce and British Gas are all on the starting blocks now.

In lumping so many cash calls together the Bank of England may well have been clearing the decks before the privatization onslaught. Companies who leave it until the autumn to raise money will be competing with the likes of British Gas' £2.5 billion flotation and the attendant publicity. For most it will be an unequal battle.

The autumn schedule should not in theory exhaust institutional cash flow however. In practice much depends on the strength of the market. Nicholas Knight of James Capel expects the FT All Share to fall from its level of 776 to below 750 in the summer and pick up to 800 by the end of the year.

Other brokers are even more confident, but all warn that their projections could be upset by, say, a Wall Street collapse. What seems clear is that the Government will do all in its power to help give British Gas a good blast-off.

Clare Dobie

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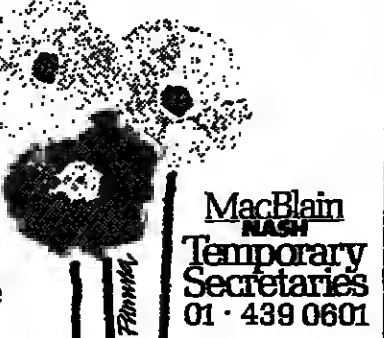
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SPORT

England's rivals at loggerheads

From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Monterrey

The pot in Group F, which is based in by far the hottest of the World Cup venues, is already on the boil. While England are calmly finishing their preparations for the forthcoming matches, the Poles and the Moroccans are arguing with each other. And, most notably of all, the Portuguese are arguing among themselves.

The Portuguese, who are staying up in the mountains with Bobby Robson's squad in Saltillo, have fallen into complete chaos only a week before the two nations stage their opening tie down in Monterrey. Indeed, there is a danger that their entire squad may be sent home because of their extraordinary behaviour.

They have astounded Jose Torres, their manager who led their attack with Eusebio in the semi-final of the 1966 tournament, by refusing to train or even to play a practice match against local opposition last Sunday. They requested that their daily allowance should be increased immediately from \$27 to \$60.

The size of their demand and particularly the timing of

it has infuriated both the officials here and back in their own homeland. It also threatens to diminish the lead they hold in the popularity stakes in Monterrey. The industrious local people do not respect qualities of greed, selfishness and stubbornness.

Even the Portuguese President has intervened in the sordid affair. Mario Soares sent a telegram yesterday saying that "as there is at stake the prestige of Portugal in one of the great sporting events of the world, I appeal to you to let serenity and commonsense prevail over intransigence and put an end to a situation that the people of Portugal do not understand."

Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Education and Culture Minister, sent some other words to the players. His telegram said that their reaction had "neither dignified the name of Portugal nor shown an understanding for the affection, joy and excitement with which the Portuguese had backed".

Silva Resende, the president of the Portuguese Football As-

sociation, arrived in Mexico City last night but his attention is sure to be taken away from the principle purpose of his visit, a series of FIFA meetings in the capital city. He is expected to contact Torres today in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

The problems that arose between England's other opponents in the first round were less extensive. Indeed, they were to be expected. They occurred during a Moroccan training session when two Polish spies were spotted sitting in the limited audience. The Africans promptly stopped and refused to resume until their unwelcome visitors had been escorted away.

In the middle of the diplomatic storms that are raging around the industrial centre to the north of Mexico, England have themselves stepped quickly and for the first time into the fiery heat. The temperature at ground level, during their initial practice here at a local and heavily guarded club, was 97F.

The figure might give the impression that the England squad is indeed inside "The

hell of Mexico", as the supposedly inhospitable centre had been nicknamed. Yet it would seem that the sobriquet is an exaggeration. If this is "Hell", there are one or two of the party who are impatient to find out where "Heaven" might be.

A mercifully fresh wind transformed a potentially arduous session into a relatively pleasant afternoon's work. The players still suffered. Shilton, for instance, lost seven pounds in weight and even Bryan Robson, who exercised for 75 minutes in the company only of Fred Street, the team physiotherapist, was found to be three pounds lighter.

Robson, England's captain, is unlikely to be selected for the side that is to meet Monterrey, the Mexican champions, tomorrow. Lineker, who strained his wrist severely in Canada last weekend, has already been ruled out. He trained, "like a bird with one wing", in a sling but those two problems are clearly nothing compared to those particularly in the Portuguese camp.

Scottish preparations make Hansen's absence mystifying

From David Miller, Santa Fe

It is a reflection of the severity of Scotland's World Cup first round group that the easiest points may well come against West Germany in their second match. "Some easy points," muses Graeme Souness beside the swimming pool of the chalet-style hotel, Scotland's captain wears that slightly brooding look of a commander who knows that the enemy has several more battalions than he has: rather like Tommy Docherty, during a Press charity match in which our team was being somewhat overwhelmed, calling out to Billy Wright: "You hold two of them while I jockey four."

Souness is going to be doing a lot of jockeying these next two weeks or so. He knows that, whether openly or by Scotland's own design, much of the play against Denmark, Germany and Uruguay is going to be in the Scots' half of the field. He knows, just as his manager Alex Ferguson does, that Scotland have to play as differently from their recent performance against England as a piano sonata is from ragtime.

"We have to play the others at their own game, a waiting match, to get behind the ball and pull them forward, trying to keep possession," Souness says, relating as he recovers from a stomach bug which kept him for a day or two out of training. He would not say so, knowing from experience of that disastrous campaign in Argentina eight years ago just how important are loyalty and unity within the squad, but he is one of those who would be happier to have his former colleague, Hansen, intelligently co-ordinating possession at the back.

It is to Ferguson's credit that he does not shy away from explaining the inexcusable, of omitting one of Britain's most experienced defenders. He talks with gratitude of Hansen's courteous acceptance on the telephone of the news that he was not in the

squad. "You can only take 22, good luck, and call me if you need me," was the gist of a disappointed Hansen's response, in contrast to the money-for-moaning articles written by the Scottish forward, Speedie, and Francis, of England.

Ferguson, and Bobby Robson, may possibly have been naive and soft-hearted in giving Speedie and Francis exaggerated grounds for believing they would be included in the final squads, but the respective managers did not need a public lashing. That will come if their decisions are seen to have been wantonly mis-judged in the light of events.

"Once you've made the decision, get on with it," Ferguson says. He has chosen a different path to fitness from Billy Bingham's, down the road with Northern Ireland, here in the tranquil, ancient little city, the smallest and oldest state capital in the United States with a population of only 50,000. Santa Fe, almost hidden from view in leafy undulations as you approach on Highway 25, is, to stretch a similarity, the Florence of south-west America. Indian and contemporary art abounds in the many galleries and the current open air festival, and there is an opera house. It is art rather than stamina, which Ferguson has been seeking during the preparations: which, of course, makes Hansen's absence even more odd.

He argues that Hansen, like his Aberdeen partnership of Miller and McLeish, and Albiston at full back, is a one-position player. He wanted Albiston so as to give the option of being able to push Malpas forward to midfield: which he did in training against Northern Ireland last week and might do against Denmark. Narey provides cover at right back, for Gough, and at centre back.

Another of the versatile

players on whom Ferguson places such emphasis is Nicol. The Liverpool youngster played his early matches under Jock Stein at right back, but against Wales and England this season was in midfield. At the moment he is nursing an abdominal strain - "I tried to get back to peak fitness too quickly after injury" - but Ferguson sees him as one of the team's exciting permutations. Presumably this would be as an alternative to Strachan, if Scotland should find a pair of central attackers who permit them to play 4-4-2.

Nicol was one of those who did not shine at Wembley. "That should have been a good send-off, a revving-up, but I don't think we lost anything in confidence by the defeat," Ferguson says, no doubt grateful for Stein's account of educating Scotsmen into believing that beating England should not be life's exclusive ambition. "I know that we would have been better trying to make England impatient, instead of running at them, and in Mexico we cannot be shouting 'here we come' like John Wayne. So if the full backs go forward, the midfield will have to drop off deeper."

Ferguson admits that Denmark in their opening match, present him with the most problems tactically, with their 3-5-2 formation. He thinks they may be at their most vulnerable when they are, simultaneously, most dangerous: coming forward in support of Laudrup and Elkjaer. "Morton Olsen, their sweeper, is 35," he says. Such thinking may not be wholly straggling.

The revelation of the training here has been Nicholas, now considered certain to replace Dalglish, and to be partnered by either McVennie or Sturrock, of Dundee United, so sharp on the turn. Archibald, though once with Ferguson at Aberdeen, is, sadly, the outsider: a silent loner, his intelligence with Barcelona seemingly unrecognized, as detached from the camaraderie of the party as the coach-driver or a whist outing.

Nicholas is suddenly all that he was at Celtic and had not been at Highbury. "Walter Smith (Ferguson's assistant) and I really went on at him for several days, and spelt it out to him," Ferguson says. "I want him beating defenders, and if he loses the ball, then blame me. When he used to be playing against Aberdeen, I never knew sitting on the bench what would happen next. That's what we need now."

If anyone could be Scotland's darling of this World Cup, it is the sometime wayward, splendidly gifted Charlie. He stirs memories of Baxter and Cooke.

N Ireland in their element

Billy Bingham, not given to extravagant boasts or promises, is growing increasingly confident that his Northern Ireland team will not let Britain down in the World Cup.

At the end of a long domestic season, he has largely unknown squad into a state of physical fitness that has impressed everyone who has seen them in training. And he is now able to declare: "We are in perfect shape. The only problem I have now is keeping us at this level."

His players knuckled down to a gruelling training regime during two weeks in Albuquerque and the benefits were obvious the minute they crossed the border into Mexico. They have dropped down nearly 2,000 feet, and after their first training session in Guadalajara, Jimmy Nicholl, the full back, said: "We are all surprised at how much easier this altitude is. There is no burning sensation in the back of the throat and everything comes that bit easier."

It represents success for Bingham's gamble on limiting the time he allowed for acclimatisation. He said: "I was a bit apprehensive about the time factor. I was not sure whether two weeks was long enough. But it has proved perfect. If we had gone any earlier it would have been over the top, with players going out of their minds with boredom."

"Preparations have gone better than I expected, and we have already hit a nice level. All I have got to do now is keep them there until the first match. I shall be driving them any harder from now on," he added to the relief of his loyal bunch of players. Even if the Irish do confirm that they are the fittest of the European contenders, Bingham shares their worries about the effects of the local conditions. "The proof of the pudding is when we get down to the nitty-gritty," he said. "The heat is intense at mid-day, and to sustain a good game in that sort of temperature is extremely difficult. No matter how well prepared you are, you have to co-ordinate energy in those conditions."

The Irish, still with a week to go before their opening game against Algeria, have slight fitness worries about two players who are looked on as essential starters in their opening line-up. Norman Whiteside is suffering from tightness in his calf and Dave McCreevy endured a slight thigh strain in last week's training game against Scotland.

Hughes fit
Barcelona (Reuters) - The Welsh international footballer, Mark Hughes, yesterday passed medical tests to complete his move to Barcelona from Manchester United for \$3million.

Riots fuel security fear

Riots at a domestic Mexican match last week, in which more than 40 people were injured, have increased fears of serious crowd violence at the World Cup finals which begins on Saturday.

The riots, at a second division match in Pachuca, a few miles north of Mexico City, followed an incident a few days earlier in which the Argentine squad were jostled and insulted by Mexicans after arriving at the capital's airport.

The World Cup organizers

sought to play down the incidents but Mexican sports commentators, comparing some of their own supporters to English hooligans, appealed to the nation's football followers to "keep it clean".
The Pachuca match was the climax of the Mexican second division championship, with the local side competing against Queretaro for a place in the first division next season. Despite the trouble, the World Cup organizers stressed that no additional security measures would be taken.



Making a point: Navratilova states her case during her game against Cecchini yesterday

Yates wins stage but not jersey

By John Wilcockson

After the main part of the day's racing was cancelled because of gale force winds and counter-attacks across the Pennines, the second stage of the Milk Race was won yesterday by Sean Yates, from Sussex, the Peugeot rider. Normally, Yates would have taken the race lead, but the stage time bonuses were suppressed, so Steve Joughin of the Moducel team retained the yellow jersey. Several riders were unhappy with the officials' decision on the bonuses.

Much was promised by the scheduled 109-mile stage from Lancaster, and two of the main contenders, Paul Curran, of Great Britain, an amateur, and Paul Watson, of Raleigh, a professional, had a 25 second lead when the race was halted on Bows Moor after 47 miles. Two caravans had jack-knifed on the A66 road, and several other vehicles were blown over by a wind that was gusting to 60 miles an hour.

Curran said about his attack: "We were safer out front. Even so, the wind blew Paul into me at one point." After the race was stopped the 75 riders were transported in their team cars to Newton Aycliffe, where they lined up again nearly three hours later to contest a 20-mile circuit race.

There were many attacks and counter-attacks across the two laps of a hilly circuit, and the most decisive move came from Jesper Skibby, aged 22, the talented Danish amateur, who had also been active in the morning. He had joined a dangerous five-man break, 10 miles out of Lancaster. In the afternoon, four miles from the finish, Skibby drew out from the pack the British professionals, Yates and Graham Jones, both of whom have experienced riding in the Tour de France. The three riders stayed clear to the line, where Yates brilliantly sprinted to his first victory of the season. Jones's ANC-Halfords team mate Joey McLoughlin, won the dash for fourth place just two seconds behind.

McLoughlin is expected to ride strongly for the race leadership on today's hilly stage through the Yorkshire dales to Harrogate, while Curran and Watson are hoping to continue their unfinished business of yesterday.

SECOND STAGE: Newton Aycliffe circuit race, 20 miles. 1, S Yates, Peugeot, 49min 14sec; 2, J Skibby (Den), same time; 3, G Jones, ANC-Halfords, same time; 4, S Joughin, Moducel, 5hr 12min 24sec; 5, S Sutton, Falcon, at 11sec; 6, J Joergensen (Den), 12 sec.

SIXTEENTH STAGE (Italian unless stated): 1, P Munoz (Sp), 4hr 20min 21sec; 2, G Lakford (US), 5sec behind; 3, R Visentini, 20sec; 4, C Corti, 31sec; 5, F Chiozzioli, 43sec; 6, G Baronechelli, 1min 23sec.

OVERALLS: 1, Visentini, 77hr 4min 23sec; 2, G Saroni, 1min 5sec behind; 3, Baronechelli, 1:54; 4, LeMond, 2:05; 5, Corti, 3:24.

Harris in search of a fast time

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

The combination of looming selection dates - less than a month away - for the Commonwealth Games, and the inclement British weather is sending athletes scurrying across Europe in search of favourable conditions for qualifying times.

After a superlative spring road running season, during which he beat many of the world's top distance runners, Steve Harris turns his attention to the 10,000 metres on the Florence track this evening. Harris has only ever run one 10,000 metres before, on a grass track in his native Hereford five years ago. "I did around 32 minutes and I won by about a kilometre but I'm hardly counting that as a performance," he said. His aim, this time, is to run 28 minutes or better and if it is appreciably better then he can avoid the Commonwealth trial at that distance in the AAA championships at Crystal Palace on June 20, two days after which the selections for Edinburgh will be made.

Peter Elliott follows up his successful comeback win in the UK championship 800 metres on Monday with another race at that distance in Stavanger, Norway, this evening. Elliott wants to do 800 metres in the European championships in Stuttgart in late August.

Sieve Ovett, another man moving up distance, that is to say, to 3,000 metres for this summer's championships, decides today whether to follow up his 2,000 metres victory in Seville last Saturday in 3min 1.4sec with another race in Spain, this time in Zaragoza, over 3,000 metres tomorrow evening.

Lost for words with old master

From Rex Bellamy, Paris

There are not many tennis players who use words like "creativity" when discussing a match. Paul McNamee does. But McNamee is unusually articulate as Australians go - as any breed goes, for that matter. As his name and dark curly hair suggest, he has Irish blood in him, which tends to open the floodgates of loquacity in any man. In short, McNamee is good with words.

McNamee pops into the news when winning doubles championships or when achieving something special in singles - as was the case here in 1980 when he beat John McEneaney in a match decided by four tie-breaks. Yesterday, McNamee jumped off a shell in the memory to beat the sixth seed, Janik Nystrom, by 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 in the first round of the French championships.

We knew that McNamee, aged 31, had been out of the game for five months after surgery, on October 1, to sort out a chronic kidney ailment that suddenly became really nasty. But we also knew that he had worked himself back into form, whereas Nystrom had gone off the ball by playing too much and winning too often. It was clear that something interesting might be cooking.

Nystrom was the first to talk to the Press. Like most of the Swedes, he somehow manages to be both reticent and charming. Nystrom flirted with a droll kind of humor. "Maybe I have played too much," he said. "But you do not expect to win or reach the finals of every tournament. I played so well that I had to play every day. Today, I felt tired after the first set, and, later, even more tired." Nystrom always looks tired, so it can be hard to tell.

"When Paul is playing well, he is tough to beat," Nystrom added. "He was playing very deep, hitting the ball high, and coming in - and it was difficult

Results from Roland Garros

MEN'S SINGLES: First round: F Lunde (Sp) by P Lundgren (Swe), 6-4, 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; T. Meehan (US) by G Sany (SA), 2-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2; G. Forster (FR) by A. Panatta (I), 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-2; J. Fitzgerald (Aus) by P. Dourlan (Arg), 3-6, 6-2, 6-0, 4-0 (ret.); J. B. H. Pagan (FR) by J. Aronsson (Swe), 6-4, 3-6, 7-5; H. Lacoste (FR) by U. S. Rigal (Sp), 6-3, 6-1, 6-3; K. Carlsson (Swe) by A. Panatta (I), 6-3, 6-1, 6-3; K. Carlsson (Swe) by R. Kisteman (Den), 1-6, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3; G. Motta (FR) by M. Woodhouse (GB), 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; R. G. Barron (GB) by E. Bengtsson (Arg), 1-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; S. Casati (Sp) by R. Novakovic (CZ), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; M. B. J. Van't Hof (Ned) by E. Bengtsson (Arg), 1-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; S. Casati (Sp) by R. Novakovic (CZ), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; M. B. J. Van't Hof (Ned) by E. Bengtsson (Arg), 1-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; S. Casati (Sp) by R. Novakovic (CZ), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; M. B. J. Van't Hof (Ned) by E. Bengtsson (Arg), 1-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: First round: G. Kohns-Misch (FR) by L. McNeil (US), 6-4, 6-1; L. Gildemeister (FR) by A. S. Simeoni (US), 6-3; M. Hingray (FR) by A. S. Simeoni (US), 6-1, 6-2; K. F. Rinaldi (US) by H. U. Ne. (US), 6-1, 6-3; K. Hingray (FR) by T. H. Hingray (US), 6-1, 6-3; M. B. J. Van't Hof (Ned) by E. Bengtsson (Arg), 1-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1; S. Casati (Sp) by R. Novakovic (CZ), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2; M. B. J. Van't Hof (Ned) by E. Bengtsson (Arg), 1-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

TO PASS HIM: Nystrom still considers that clay is his best surface: "It is more fun than indoor or hard courts."

Enter McNamee, with supporting evidence: "Variety can be effective on any surface. On clay one has the opportunity to do many things, to show one's repertoire, especially against somebody who is not attacking that much. These days, you have a pretty good chance of drawing one of the Swedes in the first round. But I am a competent clay-court player."

"Joakim is very good. He plays to quite a high standard, and does not make many errors. But he is fairly predictable. I tried to combat that with creativity - angles and drops. But for a while it was not going very well."

McNamee teased Nystrom with a diversity of questions on the backhand, and made a profitable use of the drop shot when playing against the wind - which, as McNamee pointed out, is the time to play it.

One took time off from all that creativity to watch Henri Leconte beating David de Miguel, of Spain. One would take time off from almost anything to watch Leconte, who is outrageously exciting. He has looks, personality, power, touch, and, above all else, is a swaggering adventurer - if you like, an *Life* Nastase without the nonsense.

Jakob Hlasek was a long, fluctuating match with Ramesh Krishnan, and Todd Nelson, a Frank Bruno to tennis gear, came back from nowhere to beat Christo Steyn. Britain's challenge was reduced by the defeats of Jo Durie and Sara Gomer. Miss Durie took only six games from Anne Hobbs in the first round of the United States championships, and it was a similar story yesterday: 6-2, 6-4. This was the first singles Miss Hobbs had won in five tournaments this year. Her tactics were sound - she played deep to the backhand and looped the ball to Miss Durie's forehand - and she kept her composure during a crisis in the second set.

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